NATION

Teachers start hunger strike in WB to protest job loss

≫ Page: 4 ≪

BUSINESS

Global mkts rally on Trump's tariffs window

≫ Page: 7 ≪

SPORTS

Time running out as strugglers CSK, KKR face off

≫ Page: 8 ≪

www.twitter.com/EnglishSalar
www.facebook.com/EnglishSalar
www.instagram.com/dailysalarenglish
youtube.com/@dailysalardigital

SALAR

DIGITAL ENGLISH DAILY, BENGALURU

ساڈھ روزنامہ بنگلور

Website: salarnews.in | www.magzter.com | 11 APRIL 2025 | FRIDAY | BENGALURU | 12 SHAWWAL, 1446 AH | Vol 4 | Issue No 97| Pages: 8

Speeding costs 3 their lives in Nelamangala

BENGALURU, 10 APRIL

Three members of a family died after their car crashed into a road divider near Nelamangala in City on Thursday. The family was on their way to a naming ceremony in Hiriyur when the tragedy struck. The victims are Gopal, 60; his wife Shashikala, 54; and their daughter Deepa, 25; all residents of Malleswaram. Miraculously, Deepa's two children, aged five years and one-and-a-half years, survived the accident with no life-threatening injuries, the police told Salar News. The accident occurred around 10.30am on the busy Bengaluru–Tumakuru highway. According to sources, Gopal was driving the car at high speed when he lost control near Anchemane Cross. The vehicle veered left and rammed into the road divider. Shashikala died on the spot due. Gopal and Deepa were rushed to a nearby hospital with the help of bystanders, but succumbed to their injuries en route.

—Salar News

26/11 plotter Rana's run ends with arrest

Extradited from US after years-long legal battle, Rana was flown in to Delhi on a special flight

NEW DELHI, 10 APRIL

Mumbai terror attack accused Tahawwur Hussain Rana, who was extradited to the country from the US on Thursday, will now face the law in India.

His interrogation will spill the beans on the role of Pakistani state actors behind the act that claimed 166 lives in 2008, sources said.

The investigators also hope to find important leads on his travels in India, days before the carnage in in November 2008.

Rana visited Hapur and Agra, Delhi, Kochi, Ahmedabad, and Mumbai between 13 November and 21 November, 2008.

Rana, 64, a Pakistan-origin Canadian national, was brought from the Los Angeles to New Delhi on a special flight and was arrested.

Pakistan, however, said that it has nothing to do with Rana, asserting that he is a Canadian and has not renewed his Pakistani documents for over two decades.

Rana's extradition came as the US Supreme Court recently denied his application challenging it.

National Investigation Agency (NIA), in its first statement called Rana a key conspirator behind the 2008 mayhem.

Mumbai terror attack accused Tahawwur Hussain Rana with NIA officials upon his arrival at the IGI Airport, in New Delhi. ***PHOTO: PTI***

Rana is associated with Pakistani-American terrorist David Coleman Headley, one of the main conspirators of the 26/11 Mumbai attacks.

On 26 November, 2008, 10 Pakistani terrorists went on a rampage, carrying out coordinated attacks on multiple iconic locations in Mumbai, including the Taj Mahal and Oberoi hotels, Leopold Cafe, Chabad House and the Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus train station, each of which Headley had scouted in advance.

During the investigation, the roles of senior functionaries of terror outfits Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Harkat-ul Jihadi Islami (HuJI) -- Hafiz Muhammad Saeed alias Tayyaji, Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi, Sajjid Majid alias Wasi, Illyas Kashmiri, and Abdur Rehman Hashim Syed alias Major Abdurrehman alias Pasha had emerged.

They worked in active connivance with officials from Pakistan's spy agency Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), namely Major Iqbal alias Major Ali and Major Sameer Ali alias Major Samir, as per the NIA.

The NIA had filed a chargesheet before a Delhi court on 24 December, 2011 and sent requests to the US for the extradition of Headley and Rana.

During his first visit to India, Headley spoke to Rana over phone for more than 32 times. Subsequently, Headley spoke to Rana 23 times during his second visit, 40 times during the third visit, 37 times during the fifth visit, 33 times during the sixth visit, and 66 times during the eighth visit, they said, highlighting his active involvement in the Mumbai attacks conspiracy.

Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in the US arrested Rana from Chicago in October 2009 for providing support for an aborted plan to behead employees of a newspaper in Copenhagen (Denmark), and also for providing material support to the Lashkar-e-Taiba, which orchestrated the Mumbai attacks, the sources said, adding that Rana, however, was acquitted in the 26/11 case. India was trying to extradite Rana for many years because of his association with the LeT, HuJI and Headley, and for his active involvement in the Mumbai attacks *—PTI*

>>>More on Page 3

THE EXTRADITION BATTLE

- **16 May 2023:** Magistrate Judge US District Court of Central District of California allows extradition, says it's not double jeopardy
- **10 August, 2023:** US District Judge dismisses Rana's appeal against extradition
- **15 August, 2024:** US Court of Appeals 9th Circuit dismisses Rana's appeal
- **21 January, 2025:** US Supreme Court dismissed Rana's plea. Rana said he feared he would be tortured in India, given his Pakistani identity and alleged links to the attack
- **4 April, 2025:** US Supreme Court dismissed Rana's review plea
- **8 April, 2025:** US authorities handed Rana over to India officials
- **10 April, 2025:** Rana arrives in New Delhi

City Jamia Masjid imam opposes Waqf Act in SC

NEW DELHI, 10 APRIL

The Chief Imam of Bengaluru's Jamia Masjid, Mohamed Maqsoon Imran, has filed a writ petition in the Supreme Court challenging the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025.

The petition seeks to declare the provisions of the Act unconstitutional and demand the restoration of the Waqf Act, 1995. It argues that the Amendment Act violates Articles 14, 25, and 26 of the Constitution by altering the character and essence of Waqf.

Key provisions under challenge include the removal of Waqf by user, a five-year pre-condition for creating a Waqf, dilution of Waqf-alal-aulad, extension of the limitation period for challenging Waqf notifications to two years, and the inclusion of two non-Muslim members in the Central Waqf Council and State Waqf Boards.

On 16 April, a Supreme Court bench, led by Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna, will hear this petition along with others challenging the Amendment Act. These include pleas by AIMIM leader Asaduddin Owaisi, AAP leader Amanatullah Khan, and several religious and political figures such as Arshad Madani, Mohammad Shafi, and RJD's Manoj Kumar Jha.

Manipur MLA who is NDA ally moves SC

Sheikh Noorul Hassan, Manipur MLA and the leader of NPP party in Manipur too approached the Supreme Court. Notably, NPP is an ally of the BJP as a member of the NDA.

The petitioner in the plea has raised a concern over the amendment depriving Scheduled Tribes practising Islam from giving their property in Waqf. This violates their fundamental right to practise their religion, he contends.

Moitra moves SC too

TMC MP Mahua Moitra has also approached the Supreme Court. Moitra said that dissenting opinions from the opposition MPs were redacted without justification from the final report presented in Parliament on 13 February. *—Agencies*

US suspends additional 26% tariff on India till 9 July

NEW DELHI, 10 APRIL

The US has announced the suspension of additional tariffs on India for 90 days until 9 July, according to the White House executive orders.

On 2 April, US President Donald Trump slapped universal duties on some 60 countries exporting goods to America and additional steep levies on countries such as India. This hit sales of products from shrimp to steel in the world's biggest economy. The move was aimed at cutting its trade deficit and boosting domestic manufacturing.

The US imposed an additional import duty of 26 per cent on India. The tariffs were high on its competitors such as Thailand, Vietnam and China.

This suspension of tariffs is not applicable to China, including Hong Kong and Macau.

However, the 10 per cent baseline tariff imposed on the countries will remain.

A trade expert said the 25 per cent duty on steel, aluminium (effective from 12 March), auto and auto components (from 3 April) also continues.

On 2 April, US President Donald Trump slapped universal duties on some 60 countries exporting goods to America ***PHOTO:PTI***

Meanwhile, Senate Democrats are asking for the US Office of Government Ethics to look into whether anyone benefited financially from advanced knowledge of President Donald Trump's decision to back down on tariffs on Wednesday.

The Republican president said on social media on Wednesday that it was a "great time to buy," then announced less than four hours later that nearly all tariffs would be paused for 90 days. It caused the stock market to soar.

Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) Director General Ajay Sahai said that semiconductors, pharmaceuticals, and certain energy products are under the exemption category. *—PTI*

>>>More on Pages 5, 6 & 7

Mysuru teacher held for allegedly molesting 20 girls

MYSURU, 10 APRIL

A horticulture teacher on Thursday was arrested for allegedly molesting over 20 girl students at a school in the Vijayanagar area. The incident took place in Siddeshwara Aided High School.

The teacher HM Shivamurthy was arrested under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

In addition to Shivamurthy's arrest, the Mysuru police filed a case against the school headmaster, Muralidhar Rao, for attempting to cover up the incident and failing to report it to the Education Department.

The matter first came to light on 14 March when several students complained to teacher Tanuja about Shivamurthy's misconduct. The issue was immediately brought to Rao's attention. The headmaster formed an internal committee, which included two women teachers, to investigate and submit a report by 17 March. However, despite notifying the school management, no action was taken against Shivamurthy.

Frustrated by the inaction, the students approached the children's helpline and lodged a formal complaint with Deputy Director of Public Instruction (DDPI) S T Javaregowda. This prompted an inspection by officials from the Block Education Officer, Child Protection Committee, and the Women and Children's Department.

Based on their report, police arrested Shivamurthy on Wednesday and remanded him to judicial custody. Speaking to reporters, DDPI Javaregowda confirmed that while he had requested the school management to suspend Shivamurthy, as an aided institution, he had no authority to take further action. *—Salar News*

RAINS, THUNDER KILL 25 IN BIHAR

PATNA, 10 APRIL

Twenty five people lost their lives after lightning struck in Bihar, while thundershowers accompanied by hailstorm and lightning, claimed five lives in Uttar Pradesh.

Lightening killed five in Bihar's Begusarai district, four in Darbhanga, three in Madhubani, and one in Samastipur, an official statement issued by the Chief Minister's Office said.

Bihar Chief Minister, Nitish Kumar expressed his condolences and announced an ex-gratia grant of Rs four lakhs to the families of the deceased.

Kumar appealed to the people to stay indoors during inclement and follow the guidelines of the disaster management department.

The India Meteorological Department issued an orange alert for Kishanganj, Araria, Supaul, Madhubani, Sitamarhi, Sheohar, East Champaran, and West Champaran districts.

Meanwhile, hailstorm and lightning lashed some parts of Uttar Pradesh on Thursday, leaving five people dead in Firozabad, Siddharth Nagar and Sitapur districts. *—PTI*

GIVES BAIL TO ACCUSED

She invited trouble: Allahabad HC shames rape survivor

ALLAHABAD, 10 APRIL

Allahabad High Court Justice **Sanjay Kumar Singh** said the woman "herself invited trouble" and was "responsible" for an alleged act of rape, while granting the bail to the accused.

"According to the FIR registered in September 2024, the victim and her friends visited a restaurant in Hauz Khas on 21 September. They drank there till 3 am and became very intoxicated. Since she needed support, therefore, she herself agreed to go to the house of the applicant and take rest," Justice Sanjay Kumar Singh has said in the order

"The allegation of the victim that applicant instead of his house took her to his relative's flat and raped her twice is false and against the evidence on record. On the strength of said facts, it is argued that considering the facts of the case as disclosed by the victim, it is not a case of rape but may be a case of consensual relationship between the parties concerned," the order added.

- The accused was arrested in December, 2024, for the alleged rape of the woman pursuing MA from Amity University, Noida campus.

The accused was arrested in December, 2024, for the alleged rape of the woman pursuing MA from Amity University, Noida campus, and has been in prison since then.

"This court is of the view that even if the allegation of the victim is accepted as true, then it can also be concluded that she herself invited trouble and was also responsible for the same. Similar stand has been taken by the victim in her statement. In her medical examination, her hymen was found torn but doctor did not give any opinion about the sexual assault," Justice Singh observed. This comes weeks after the 17 March judgment by Justice Ram Manohar Narayan Mishra of Allahabad High Court, which observed that grabbing breasts or snapping a pyjama string do not constitute rape or attempt to rape. *—Agencies*

HAPPY MAHAVIR JAYANTHI

Devotees take out a rally from Town Hall to Freedom Park in Bengaluru on Thursday to celebrate Mahavir Jayanthi ***PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD***

KIA staffer killed, 24 injured in Airport Road crash

BENGALURU, 10 APRIL

A 25-year-old woman lost her life and 24 others were injured in a tragic road accident near Kannamangala Gate on the Bengaluru–Bellari Road early Thursday morning. The deceased, Kavya, hailed from Bommasandra in Gauribidanur taluk, Chikkaballapur, and worked in the housekeeping department at Kempegowda International Airport (KIA). She was on her way to work when the accident occurred around 6.45am. According to Devanahalli Traffic Police, a speeding mini bus ferrying airport staff attempted to overtake a truck but lost control and rammed into it. The impact severely damaged the front of the bus. Kavya died at the scene, while the driver, Brahmesh, and 23 others sustained injuries and were rushed to a nearby hospital. Police have registered a case and suspect reckless driving as the cause. *—Salar News*

Man tied to pole, 'thrashed' in Mandya

MANDYA, 10 APRIL

A man was tied to a pole and beaten up after he allegedly threatened an acquaintance with a knife, police said on Thursday. The incident occurred on Wednesday in G Bommanahalli village, located in the Nagamangala taluk of the district, they said. A purported video of the assault, which has now gone viral on social media platforms, shows Nagesh, 34, with his hands and feet tied to a pole while being beaten up by several individuals. According to the police, Nagesh had allegedly threatened a fellow villager, Chaluvesh, with a knife over a financial dispute. This led to a heated argument between the two. Following this, Chaluvesh and some of his friends allegedly tied Nagesh to the pole and assaulted him, they added. Nagesh's wife later lodged a complaint at the Nagamangala Rural Police Station. *—Salar News*

K'taka ranks second in India in investment & GST: HM

He says Centre hasn't given tax share properly

MANDYA, 10 APRIL

Home Minister G Parameshwara has said that the state's financial status has improved, and it ranks second in the country in terms of investment and Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections.

The minister said the government has allocated funds in the budget for the five guarantees and accused the Central government of not cooperating in distributing the 10kg free rice scheme. "Instead, we paid for five kg," he said.

He also questioned the Central government for increasing the price of the cooking gas cylinder, petrol and diesel.

"It is ironic that the BJP in the state is fighting against price hikes. The Central government has not properly allocated our tax share. Why did the Central government increase the prices of cooking gas cylinder, petrol and diesel? Do the BJP and the JD(S) not know what price has been raised?" he asked.

Home Minister G Parameshwara **PHOTO: ANI**

On Tuesday, Parameshwara responded to the criticisms he faced over his controversial comments on the Bengaluru molestation case. He highlighted the implementation of the Nirbhaya project, claiming that Karnataka has used more grants for the initiative than any other state. He also emphasised on taking measures for the protection of women and expressed regret if his remarks offended women. *—ANI*

- "It is ironic that BJP in the State is fighting against price hikes. The Central government has not properly allocated our tax share. Why did the Central government increase the prices of cooking gas cylinder, petrol and diesel?" he asked.

OTHER OPTIONS OPEN

Int'l airport not viable at Sira: Patil

BENGALURU, 10 APRIL

Even as demand to establish second International Airport for Bengaluru at Sira in Tumakuru district gains momentum and with Home Minister G Parameshwara supporting the cause, Infrastructure Minister MB Patil on Thursday indicated that it may not be viable.

If the airport comes up at Sira, it will become a district or a regional airport and not an international airport for Bengaluru, Patil said.

A number of legislators, cutting across party lines, recently signed a petition to the chief minister and union civil aviation minister, demanding an international airport at Sira – about 120 km from Bengaluru – in a campaign spearheaded by Congress MLA TB Jayachandra.

Union Minister of State and Tumakuru MP V Somanna has also lent voice to it.

The state government has already shortlisted three locations for the city's second airport – two on Kanakapura Road near Harohalli and one on Kunigal Road in Nelamangala. The Airports Authority of India (AAI) team has inspected these sites in the past couple of days. "If the airport has to come up at Sira – Jayachandra is a senior leader, I respect him – it won't be an international airport for Bengaluru, it will become airport for Tumkuru and Chitradurga districts," Patil said in Bengaluru. *—ANI*

MB Patil **PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA**

KARAGA IS HERE

Women carry flower-decorated pots during the Karaga Deepotsava, held as part of the Bengaluru Karaga Festival at Dharmaraya Temple on Thursday. **PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD**

Mysuru celebrates Mahavir Jayanthi with grandeur

MYSURU, 10 APRIL

Mahavir Jayanthi was celebrated with great devotion and splendour in Mysuru on Thursday, as hundreds of members from various Jain associations took part in a grand procession.

The celebration began with an Abhishek Pooja at 7.30am at Mahaveer Bhavan, where devotees gathered to perform sacred rituals. A special Dharmasabha followed, featuring spiritual discourses on the life and teachings of Lord Mahavira, the 24th Tirthankara of Jainism.

Over 3,000 people, including seven uniformed Mahila Mandal members, participated. Music bands and spiritual chants filled the air, while local shopkeepers distributed water, buttermilk, and juice to participants.

Floral tributes were offered to Lord Mahavira's portrait. *—Salar News*

Bengaluru braces for rain as IMD issues yellow alert

BENGALURU, 10 APRIL

After weeks of patchy pre-monsoon showers across State, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast light to moderate rainfall in Bengaluru and surrounding areas over the next two days.

According to IMD, the City is likely to experience a generally cloudy sky with chances of rain during evening and night on 10 and 11 April.

A yellow alert has been issued for Bengaluru, with IMD officials noting the possibility of isolated rainfall in interior regions of the State. Some areas may also witness thunder, lightning, and gusty winds.

In the past 24 hours, districts such as Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, Uttara Kannada, Vijayapura, Bidar, Kalaburagi, Yadgir, Kodagu, Chikkamagaluru, Mandya, Shivamogga, and Davanagere have recorded light to moderate rainfall.

PHOTO: FREEPIK

Coastal and Malnad regions are also likely to see continued showers, while interior Karnataka may experience sporadic rain and brief localised storms due to increased atmospheric moisture.

The rain is expected to bring some relief from the recent heatwave, though weather experts caution that sudden changes in wind patterns could occur. Residents are advised to carry umbrellas and plan evening commutes carefully, as showers may disrupt traffic across the City. *—Salar News*

- The rain is expected to bring some relief from the recent heatwave, though weather experts caution that sudden changes in wind patterns could occur.

Cong & BJP train guns at each other over price hikes

BENGALURU, 10 APRIL

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Thursday said that the ruling Congress in the State will hold a protest in Bengaluru on 17 April against the central government's price rise, and to counter the BJP's 'Janaakrosha Yatre'.

He accused the BJP-led government at the Centre of being responsible for the rise in prices of all essential commodities, including petrol, diesel and cooking gas.

"We have to respond to the BJP. On 17 April at 11am, under the leadership of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, AICC general secretary Randeep Singh Surjewla and myself, we will also hold a Janaakrosha protest against the BJP led Central government. We will subsequently inform about the taluk and district level protests," Shivakumar, who is also the State Congress president, said.

DK Shivakumar **PHOTO: PTI**

This protest is also a response to the Karnataka BJP's ongoing 16-day 'Janaakrosha Yatre', a statewide campaign against the Congress government, launched on Monday, for hike in price of essential commodities, alleged Muslim appeasement, and alleged diversion funds meant for Dalit welfare.

"The BJP is speaking about people's outrage against our government, but the people in fact are enjoying the benefits of free bus service, free power, free 10 kg rice, and Rs 2,000 per month to women. We have conducted a survey; people are happy," he added.

The BJP leader cited reported statements by the Chief Minister's Economic Advisor Basavaraj Rayareddy -- who said Karnataka ranks number one in corruption -- and by Minister D Sudhakar-- who stated that the government is only now taking off after 20 months -- as "certificates" that reflect the government's functioning. *—PTI*

Prohibitory orders issued for CET exam

BENGALURU, 10 APRIL

Ahead of the Common Entrance Test (CET) scheduled for 16 and 17 April, City Police have announced stringent precautionary measures to ensure smooth and fair conduct of the exams.

Bengaluru Police Commissioner B Dayananda has issued prohibitory orders, declaring a 200m radius around all CET exam centres as restricted zones on both days. As part of these measures, all photocopy (xerox) shops within this zone must remain closed during exam hours to prevent any possibility of malpractice.

A total of 157 examination centres fall under the Bengaluru Police Commissionerate. The restrictions will be enforced from 10am. until the end of examinations each day.

All divisional Deputy Commissioners of Police (DCPs) have been instructed to deploy adequate security and maintain strict surveillance at their respective centres. "These measures are being taken to conduct the exams in a seamless and malpractice-free manner," Commissioner Dayananda stated. The CET, conducted by the Karnataka Examinations Authority, is a key examination for students aspiring to join professional courses across State. *—PTI*

'No change in KPCC Prez post'

BENGALURU, 10 APRIL

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Thursday ruled out any change in the state Congress president—a post he currently holds—stating that no discussion has taken place in this regard with the party high command.

"No changes. Some office bearers will be added, and some District Congress Committee (DCC) presidents will be replaced. Beyond that, no one has spoken to me about any such matter," Shivakumar said in response to a question about possible changes to the KPCC presidency or organisational reshuffles during the AICC meeting in Ahmedabad.

Shivakumar is currently serving an extended term as KPCC president.

A section of party leaders, some of whom have openly expressed interest in the post, have argued that Shivakumar should not continue holding both positions—Deputy Chief Minister and state Congress president—citing the party's 'one man, one post' policy. They have urged the high command to appoint a new KPCC chief soon.

When asked about filling four vacant MLC positions, Shivakumar said AICC general secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala would visit the state on 17 April to discuss the matter.

"I'm always in favour of party workers, including for nomination quotas. I firmly believe that eligible party workers should be given a chance," he said, responding to a question on the party's nominees for the vacant seats.

A section of leaders argue that Shivakumar should not hold Deputy Chief Minister and KPCC President posts **PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD**

Asked about Chief Minister's Economic Advisor Basavaraj Rayareddi's reported claim that Karnataka ranks number one in corruption, Shivakumar said, "He (Rayareddi) has clarified that he never made such a statement. I saw the reports on TV while I was in Ahmedabad. I will speak to him."

On an activist reportedly seeking the Governor's permission to prosecute Chief Minister Siddaramaiah for allegedly receiving kickbacks during his first term as CM to approve mining leases for eight firms accused of illegalities, Shivakumar dismissed the allegations.

"These are political accusations with no truth in them. No one can act outside the legal framework, especially on mining leases. The chief minister would have discharged his responsibilities responsibly," he said.

He also said he was unaware of several legislators across party lines recently signing a petition addressed to the Chief Minister and Union Civil Aviation Minister, urging them to establish Bengaluru's second airport at Sira in Tumakuru—about 120 km from Bengaluru.

The campaign is being spearheaded by senior Congress leader and MLA TB Jayachandra. *—PTI*

Cops hunt for City molestation suspect in Andhra

BENGALURU 10 APRIL

A week after a video of a woman being molested in BTM Layout went viral, City police have identified the suspect as a local resident and are closing in on his whereabouts.

Five special teams have been formed to trace the accused. One team has been dispatched to Andhra Pradesh and another to Tamil Nadu following strong leads. The remaining teams are carrying out intensive searches across various areas of Bengaluru.

According to sources, the man—seen riding a two-wheeler in the area prior to the incident—is believed to be from BTM Layout. Investigators have reviewed over 1,000 CCTV cameras to trace his movements and connections, if any.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Bengaluru South), Lokesh B Jagalasar, told Salar News that the suspect fled the city after realising police was tracking him. The incident, which occurred at 1.52 am on 3 April, came to light after video surfaced online. It showed two women walking down a lane when a man on a scooter groped one of them. *—Salar News*

Watches to cylinders: Thieves are on a roll

BENGALURU 10 APRIL

In a series of bizarre thefts across the City, burglars are seem to be making off with anything they can lay their hands on — from cash and watches to, quite incredibly, LPG cylinders.

Recent cases reported in Indiranagar and Begur suggest that thieves are now targeting not just valuables, but even household essentials, leaving residents stunned and police scrambling to identify the culprits.

In one such incident, an unidentified man broke into a house and made away with valuables including Rs 20,000 in cash, a wristwatch and an office bag. The theft occurred around 3pm on Tuesday, when the house owner, Janith, had stepped out briefly to speak with a neighbour, leaving the main door ajar.

CCTV footage from the premises captured the suspect in action and a case has been registered at the Indiranagar police station. Officers said the accused has been identified and efforts are on to arrest him.

In another incident reported at AECS Layout under the Begur police limits, two youths were caught on camera stealing an LPG cylinder from an apartment basement. Police believe the duo had stolen another cylinder, as CCTV footage shows one already loaded onto their scooter.

Police urged citizens to remain vigilant, secure their premises and alert police in the case of any suspicious activities. *—Salar News*

- Police urged citizens to remain vigilant, secure their premises and alert police in the case of any suspicious activities.

AFTER BACK PAIN

Darshan skips court, attends film premiere

BENGALURU, 10 APRIL

Kannada actor Darshan Thoogudeepa, who is out on bail in a murder case, has sparked sharp criticism after skipping a court hearing on Tuesday, citing severe back pain, only to be seen at a movie premiere the very next evening.

Darshan, the main accused in the murder of Renukaswamy from Chitradurga, was required to appear before a special court as part of his bail conditions. His lawyers requested an exemption, claiming he was unwell, but the court refused, emphasising that the accused must appear "under any circumstance."

However, on 9 April, Darshan was spotted at the premiere of 'Vamana,' a film by his friend Dhanveer Gowda, at GT Mall in Vijayanagar. The actor stayed for the three-hour screening and addressed the media afterward. Notably, Darshan was accompanied by actor Chikkanna, a witness in the same murder case, raising concerns about potential violations of his bail conditions.

Darshan and 16 others, including actress Pavithra Gowda, were arrested in June 2024 for allegedly kidnapping, torturing, and murdering Renukaswamy, who had posted objectionable comments online. Despite the serious charges, Darshan has resumed shooting and travelled across multiple states since his release on bail. The next hearing in the murder case is scheduled for 20 May. *—Salar News*

- Despite the charges, Darshan has resumed shooting and travelled across multiple states.

Ramadoss to become PMK chief ahead of 2026 polls

VILLUPURAM, 10 APRIL

S Ramadoss, founder of the Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK), announced on Thursday that he will assume full control of the party, designating his son, Anbumani, as working president. This reshuffle is aimed at sharpening the party's strategy for the upcoming 2026 Assembly elections. Ramadoss stated, "I have formulated an action plan for the 2026 elections. To execute this plan effectively, I believe it is necessary to restructure PMK." He picked former president GK. Mani as honorary president. This precedes the visit of Union Home Minister Amit Shah to Chennai. Tensions over leadership have arisen, particularly after Anbumani opposed Ramadoss's decision to appoint his grandson, P Mukundan, to a key post. *—PTI*

Kangana's electric bill is Rs 91,000, not Rs 1L: Board

SHIMLA, 10 APRIL

Amidst a growing controversy regarding Bollywood actress and BJP MP Kangana Ranaut's electricity bill, the Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board Limited (HPSEBL) has provided clarification. Managing Director Sandeep Kumar addressed reports claiming Ranaut was billed Rs 1 lakh, stating the actual amount was Rs 91,000, accrued over multiple billing cycles and including arrears. Kumar explained that Kangana had not settled her November and December bills until January 16 and had missed payments for January and February. The March bill, covering 28 days, amounted to around Rs 55,000 due to a high connected load of 94 kilowatts—1500 per cent more than the average domestic user. He added that Ranaut received a Rs 700 subsidy, and clarified that no one from her team had contacted the board before the issue became public.*—ANI*

Karni Sena leader announces bounty on SP MP, booked

ALIGARH, 10 APRIL

A Karni Sena leader, Mohan Chauhan, has been booked for allegedly announcing a Rs 25 lakh reward for the killing of Samajwadi Party (SP) MP Ramji Lal Suman, following the latter's controversial remarks about 16th-century Rajput king Rana Sanga. In a video circulated on social media since late March, Chauhan claimed the MP would "pay the price" and stated he would carry out the act himself if given the chance. Aarti Singh, SP Mahila Sabha chief in Aligarh, filed a complaint at Gandhi Park police station on 29 March. The case was later transferred to Jawaan police station, under whose jurisdiction Chauhan lives. Police have now formally registered the case and confirmed that an investigation is underway. *—PTI*

PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA

Italian Deputy PM to visit India to strengthen ties

NEW DELHI, 10 APRIL

Italian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister Antonio Tajani is set to visit India from 11-12 April, with the aim of enhancing bilateral relations. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has released a media advisory detailing his upcoming engagements. Tajani will arrive in Delhi on 11 April, where he is scheduled to hold separate meetings with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar at Hyderabad House, as well as with Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal at Vanijya Bhawan. On 12 April, he will meet with President Droupadi Murmu at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in the afternoon, as outlined in the advisory. *—PTI*

Rana extradition big win: 26/11 survivor

9 years old at the time, Devika Rotawan helped identify Kasab, one of the terrorists

MUMBAI, 10 APRIL

Devika Rotawan, a survivor of the 26/11 Mumbai terrorist attacks, said on Thursday that the extradition of key accused Tahawwur Hussain Rana from the US was a big win for India and demanded other conspirators holed up in Pakistan be also extradited.

At just nine years old, Rotawan was caught in the crossfire at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT) in south Mumbai, one of the sites attacked by terrorists on the night of 26 November, 2008. She was struck by a bullet in her leg.

Rotawan was a key witness in the case and identified terrorist Mohammed Ajmal Kasab (the lone surviving attacker) in court during the trial, who was hanged in 2012.

Talking about Rana's extradition to India, Rotawan, now 25, said she was happy that India got one of the conspirators of the terror strikes to face justice in the country.

"This is a big win for India, and I want. With Rana being brought to India to face justice, it is the beginning of the end of terrorism in India, " Rotawan told PTI.

"Rana should get capital punishment, but elements that are still sponsoring terrorism from Pakistan and encouraging terror activities should also get strict punishment," the survivor asserted.

Devika Rotawan **PHOTO: X**

On the fateful day Rotawan, her father, and brother, were going to Pune. They were sitting waiting for the train when the crowded station was attacked.

Recalling the night of carnage, she said, "I saw a man (Kasab) with a big gun in his hand opening fire at passengers. I saw many dead bodies and injured passengers. I was just nine years old then. I did not know what was happening." *—PTI*

Don't give him spl treatment: Tea seller who saved lives

MUMBAI, 10 APRIL

A tea seller who helped many people escape the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks said accused Tahawwur Rana should not be given any special treatment, like biryani or a separate cell, and demanded that he be hanged to death.

Talking to PTI, Mohammed Taufiq, also known as 'Chotu Chai Wala', also demanded stricter laws in the country to deal with terrorists.

Taufiq was operating his tea stall at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT) in south Mumbai when it came under attack. He recounted seeing people dying in front of his eyes during the assault.

He had then alerted a large number of people, guided them towards a safe direction at the station to escape from the attack and rushed many of the injured persons to hospital.

Mohammed Taufiq **PHOTO: ANI**

"There is no need to provide a separate cell, or biryani and other facilities to Tahawwur Rana, like those given to Ajmal Kasab (the lone terrorist from the Pakistani group captured alive)," Taufiq said.

"I will celebrate once Rana is given death penalty," he said.

Notably, Kasab's demand for mutton biryani in jail was just a myth and was "concocted" to stop an "emotional wave" which was being created in favour of the militant, Ujjwal Nikam, public prosecutor in the case, said in 2015 *—PTI*

Lawyer who led extradition to lead NIA trial

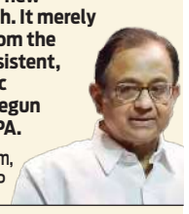
NEW DELHI, 10 APRIL

Senior advocate Dayan Krishnan, who led India's arguments for the extradition of 26/11 accused Tahawwur Rana in a US court, is set to lead the National Investigation Agency's prosecution in Delhi.

Krishnan, who has been associated with the extradition proceedings since 2010, will have assistance from Special Prosecutor Narender Mann, a seasoned criminal lawyer, who has earlier represented the Central Bureau of Investigation in the Delhi High Court. The prosecution team will also comprise advocates Sanjeevi Sheshadri and Sridhar Kale aside from the NIA counsel,.

Rana was extradited after the US Supreme Court dismissed his plea against his extradition. *—PTI*

In February 2025, Prime Minister Modi and President Trump stood at a press conference and tried to take credit for what was essentially the result of years of UPA-era groundwork. Let the facts be clear: the Modi government did not initiate this process, nor did it secure any new breakthrough. It merely benefited from the mature, consistent, and strategic diplomacy begun under the UPA.



-P Chidambaram, Congress MP

This extradition is not an ordinary extradition. This is a reflection of new India's resolve which Prime Minister Narendra Modi had described in 2019, saying that if anyone dared to attack India's unity, integrity, respect and its innocent people, the new India would bring such terrorists to justice

-Shehzad Poonawalla, BJP National Spokesperson

Who is Special Public Prosecutor Narender Mann?

New Delhi, 10 April

The Ministry of Home Affairs appointed Advocate Narender Mann as the Special Public Prosecutor for the trial against Tahawwur Hussain Rana in Delhi. Mann, a law graduate from Delhi University in 1990, has represented the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and appeared in several important cases, including attempt on life of former CJI AN Ray by Ananda Margis. He was the Special Public Prosecutor for the CBI in the Delhi High Court between January, 2011 and April, 2019. Aside from Margis' case, Mann represented the CBI in a Medical Council scam, AICTE scam, the CWG cases, CGHS societies scam and cases under FCRA, Prevention of Corruption Act, and banking frauds. He also appeared in cases including Jain-diary Hawala case, the JMM MPs case, Bofors case, and cooperative society cases. *—PTI*

Big day. Rana should be hanged: Brother of 26/11 hero Tukaram Omble

Mumbai, 10 April

Calling the extradition of Tahawwur Rana a "big day," Eknath Omble, the brother of 26/11 hero Tukaram Omble, on Thursday urged the central government to hang Tahawwur Rana. Ashok Chakra Awardee Tukaram Omble, a sub-inspector in Mumbai police, armed with only a baton held onto terrorist Ajmal Kasab's rifle, ensuring his arrest, but unfortunately fell to the bullets during the attack. "Many innocent people and policemen were killed. It was a painful night. Tahawwur Rana was the closest ally of David Headley, who was the mastermind of the attack - they all should have been hanged earlier. But it's a big day for the country. I request the government that he (Tahawwur Rana) should be hanged as soon as possible," Eknath Omble told ANI. *—ANI*

Rana's link to LeT mastermind David Headley

MUMBAI, 10 APRIL

David Coleman Headley, born Daood Sayed Gilani, is a Pakistani-American terrorist. His role in conducting surveillance of targets in the Mumbai attacks made him a central figure in the investigations that followed. He travelled to India several times between 2006 and 2008, posing as a business to conduct reconnaissance.

In 2009, Headley and Tahawwur Rana were arrested in 2009 for by US authorities for planning an attack on a Danish newspaper. The two were childhood friends, having met in school. While Headley pleaded guilty in 2010 and avoided the death penalty in exchange for cooperation, Rana denied any knowledge of terror activities. Headley's testimony helped firmly implicate Rana in the Mumbai attacks, and expose the role of Lashkar-e-Taiba. Rana helped facilitate Headley's travel to India and allowed Headley to use his business as a front.*—Agencies*

After LoC breach, India-Pak armies hold meet in J&K

JAMMU/ SRINAGAR, 10 APRIL

The Indian and Pakistani armies held a brigade commander-level flag meeting along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district, Jammu and Kashmir, on Thursday to discuss border management issues.

This marks the second such meeting in April.

The meeting took place at the Chakan-Da-Bagh cross-point, with brigadier-level officers from both nations leading the discussions. A defence spokesperson noted that these flag meetings are a routine aspect of LoC and border management, following an understanding between the Director Generals of Military Operations (DGMO) of both countries.

During the discussions, Indian Army officials raised concerns regarding infiltration attempts, ceasefire violations, and incidents involving improvised explosive devices (IEDs), lodging a formal protest with their Pakistani counterparts.

Earlier, on 2 April, a similar flag meeting occurred, lasting 75 minutes, where both sides emphasised the importance of maintaining peace along the borders. Reports indicate that on 1 April, Pakistani troops engaged in unprovoked fire following a mine explosion along the LoC.

Furthermore, subsequent ceasefire violations have been reported, although such incidents have been relatively rare following the renewal of the ceasefire agreement on 25 February 2021.

Meanwhile, authorities in Jammu and Kashmir conducted extensive searches in Srinagar and Pulwama districts on Thursday, targeting remnants of the secessionist and terrorist networks in the region.

The operations were carried out by Srinagar police following a warrant issued by an NIA (National Investigation Agency) court, as part of ongoing investigations related to cases filed under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

These searches were linked to a case registered last year at the Rajbagh police station concerning banned organisations.

Among the locations searched were the residences of Tehreek-e-Hurriyat members Bashir Ahmed Bhat, alias Peer Saifullah, from Zadoora in Pulwama, and Mohammad Ashraf Laya, originally from Baramulla and currently residing in Old Barzulla.

During the searches, officials reported the seizure of incriminating materials, including books, letterheads, pamphlets, and letters relevant to the investigation.

All the evidence confiscated in the presence of a first-class executive magistrate and independent witnesses, adhering to legal protocols. *—PTI*

120 Oppn MPs say DPDP Act destroys RTI, seek repeal

NEW DELHI, 10 APRIL

Opposition INDIA bloc on Thursday demanded repeal of Section 44 (3) of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act (DPDP), contending that it destroys the Right to Information (RTI) Act.

Over 120 MPs of the INDIA bloc parties, including Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi, have signed a joint memorandum for repeal of this section, which will be submitted to Union Information and Technology Minister, Ashwini Vaishnaw.

Civil rights activists have also opposed the Section 44 (3) of the act.

Section 8(1)(j) of the RTI Act allowed withholding of personal information if its disclosure was unrelated to any public activity or interest or would result in an unwarranted invasion of privacy.

However, if disclosing the information served a larger public interest, it could be made available.

Section 44 (3) of the DPDP Act amends Section 8(1)(j) of the RTI Act

Meanwhile, Vaishnaw refuted Congress General Secretary Jairam Ramesh claims of Section 44 (3) of DPDP Act eliminating the provision in Section 8 (1) of the RTI Act, giving citizens equal right to information

He said that the section is in harmony with principles of transparency in public life as enacted in the RTI. *—PTI*

Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi and Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Priyanka Chaturvedi in New Delhi on Thursday **PHOTO: PTI**

ERA OF 'GREY ZONE'

Cyber attacks driving military: Rajnath

NILGIRIS, 10 APRIL

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday said that Artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies are revolutionising deterrence and war fighting in critical.

"Technology is driving geopolitics and national security like never before. AI and the emerging basket of technologies - robotics, military autonomy, dronery, quantum, blockchain, space, cyber, electronics, additive manufacturing and the like- are revolutionising deterrence and war fighting in critical ways. Warfare is moving rapidly, beyond the traditional domains of land, sea, and air, to space, cyber, the undersea and newer domains of creative endeavour," Rajnath Singh said while participating in the annual day celebration of the Defence Staff Training College at Wellington, Nilgiris.

He said that technology is not a support element but a decisive enabler of operational success.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said that warfare is shifiting rapidly beyond traditional domains **PHOTO: PTI**

"Our armed forces must therefore not only keep pace with technological changes, but also lead it. The need for us is to develop low-cost high-tech solutions and enhance the fighting capability of the armed forces," he said.

"Accompanied by weaponization of trade and finance, and anxieties that are created due to concentration of supply chains, monopoly over disruptive technologies and anxieties over the transparency of data flows, it is no surprise that the world is moving to an era of self-help and unilateral decisions, leading to a decline of global institutions and order," he said.

- Rajnath said that technology is not a support element but a decisive enabler of operational success. He noted that drones for instance emerged as a new arm in the Ukraine-Russia war, highlighting the importance of the being in front on emerging technologies

He said that drones for instance, emerged in Ukraine-Russia conflict, virtually as a new arm, if not a transformative science.

"We are in the age of Grey Zone and Hybrid warfare where Cyber-attacks, disinformation campaigns, and economic warfare have become tools that can prosecute and achieve politico-military aims without a single shot being fired," he added. *—ANI*

Find Didi a groom: Katju; threatened with slap

BENGULURU, 10 APRIL

Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader, Kunal Ghosh has threatened to 'slap' former Supreme Court Justice Markandey Katju's for his post suggesting marriage for West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

"Why don't Bengali people find a good husband for Mamata Banerjee?" Katju had posted on Instagram.

The post has garnered much criticism on social media.

The former judge often courted controversy for his inflammatory statements. He had received severe backlash, including death threats for making such statements on several occasions in the past.

Ghosh shared the post, demanding an apology from Katju. He also threatened to hit the former judge if the post was not removed.

"If this is really what this person said and if he doesn't apologize and delete it, then no matter what position he holds, if I get news that he has set foot in Bengal, I will go ahead and slap him," Ghosh wrote on X.

This repost has again generated diverse reactions from people, with some even supporting Katju, saying expressing his views is his fundamental right. *—Agencies*

Markandey Katju **PHOTO: X**

- "If this is really what this person said and if he doesn't apologize and delete it, then no matter what position he holds, if I get news that he has set foot in Bengal, I will go ahead and slap him," Kunal Ghosh wrote

PHOTO: PTI

Air India Express pilot dies after flight in Delhi

NEW DELHI, 10 APRIL

An Air India Express pilot tragically passed away due to a medical condition shortly after flying from Srinagar to Delhi. The pilot, believed to be in his late 30s, reported feeling unwell upon landing and was transported to a nearby hospital, where he was pronounced dead. An airline spokesperson expressed deep regret over the loss and pledged to support the family during this difficult time. While further details regarding the circumstances of his passing remain unclear, the airline has requested respect for the family's privacy and cautioned against speculation. The incident highlights the challenges facing aviation professionals and the importance of health and wellness within the industry. *—PTI*

Two more held in Kerala woman home birth death

MALAPPURAM, 10 APRIL

Two additional individuals were detained on Thursday by police in relation to the tragic death of a 35-year-old woman, Asma, who reportedly died during childbirth at her home in north Kerala. Fathima, a resident of Othukkungal, and her son Aboobaker Siddique are believed to have assisted with the delivery and will be subjected to further questioning as part of the ongoing investigation. Earlier, police arrested Sirajudheen, 39, the husband of the deceased, on charges of culpable homicide not amounting to murder and destruction of evidence. Asma, a native of Chattiparamba, died on Sunday while giving birth to her fifth child. Authorities later confirmed she died from excessive bleeding during childbirth. *—PTI*

PHOTO: X

Petrol bunk staff killed for refusing to fill bottle

BULANDSHAHR, 10 APRIL

A petrol pump manager, Raju Sharma, was shot dead in Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh after refusing to fill petrol into a plastic bottle for two men. The incident occurred Wednesday night when the assailants, on a motorcycle, approached the pump demanding petrol in an inappropriate container. Following Sharma's refusal, an argument escalated, resulting in the gunfire that led to his injuries. He was rushed to a hospital but succumbed to his wounds. Police have initiated an investigation, with an FIR filed and CCTV footage helping to identify the suspects. Authorities are actively pursuing their capture. *—PTI*

Court orders removal of audio clip of Punjab cop

LUDHIANA, 10 APRIL

A court in Ludhiana, Punjab, directed social media platforms to remove an audio clip in which a senior police official allegedly solicits sexual favours. The petition claims the audio may involve AI-generated impersonation and misleads the public, potentially disrupting societal order. The court, led by Judicial Magistrate First Class Vibha Rana, determined the content is likely defamatory and does not constitute protected speech or public interest journalism. The court prohibited anyone from posting or sharing the content or similar materials that are unauthenticated and maligning to individuals particularly law enforcement agencies. *—PTI*

Teachers start hunger strike in WB to protest job loss

500 other 'eligible' teachers rally, say cops lathicharged them

KOLKATA, 10 APRIL

A section of teachers who lost their jobs following a Supreme Court judgment on Thursday began a relay hunger strike outside the West Bengal School Service Commission (SSC) office.

The teachers and other staff who lost their jobs said that they were also protesting police action against their compatriots at the district inspector (DI) of schools' office at Kasba in south Kolkata on Wednesday.

"We started a relay hunger strike agitation with one teacher at the beginning and will soon chalk out further programme to protest," one of the demonstrators said outside the SSC office.

The agitating teachers have been holding a sit-in outside the SSC office building 'Acharya Sadan' since Wednesday night.

The protesters alleged they were subjected to baton-charge and were even kicked and shoved around by law enforcement personnel during the demonstration.

Another group of 500 "eligible" teachers rallied elsewhere in Kolkata, saying they should not be clubbed with the "tainted" teachers.

School teachers protest at the office of the District Inspector of Schools over loss of school jobs, in Siliguri, on Wednesday

PHOTO: PTI

Mehboob Mondal, one of the spokespersons of 'Jogyo Sikshak Manch' (Eligible Teachers Forum), told PTI, "We hit the streets to say deserving teachers that they should not be penalised for the failure of the School Service Commission (SSC) to differentiate between the deserving and tainted candidates who sat for the recruitment tests in 2016 and got appointment letters."

Asked if they would join the relay hunger strike with another group of eligible teachers in front of the SSC office building, Mondal said, "We will decide after this programme. If they (fasting teachers) are also eligible, we will join them," he added.

The Central Bureau of Investigation and the Enforcement Directorate earlier arrested former West Bengal education minister Partha Chatterjee and other officials who held positions in the state's SSC when the irregularities in the recruitment process took place.

The Supreme Court on 3 April upheld a 2024 Calcutta High Court judgment annulling the recruitment of 25,753 teaching and non-teaching staff appointed through a recruitment drive by SSC in 2016, terming the process "vitiated and tainted". *—PTI*

LANDSLIDE AFTERMATH

HC says Centre may provide relief to Wayanad victims

KOCHI, 10 APRIL

The Kerala High Court on Thursday said that while the RBI cannot ask banks to waive the loans of Wayanad landslides victims, the Union government and the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) can do so.

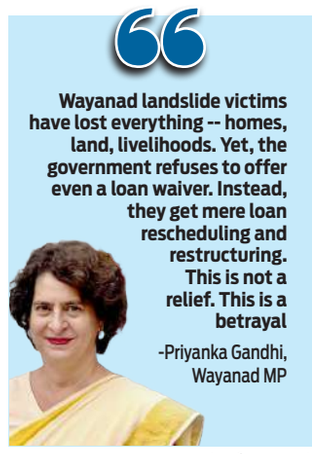
A bench of Justices AK Jayasankaran Nambiar and Easwaran S said it will pass orders "nudging" the Centre and the NDMA to ask the banks to waive off the loans.

The bench pointed out that the Kerala Bank had waived off the disaster victims' loans and it had an exposure of around Rs 5 crore.

The High Court observed that if the Kerala Bank can do it, then the other banks, which have lesser exposure, can also do the same.

"It only requires a bit of goading from the NDMA and the Union government," it said.

The observations came in the wake of the Central government filing an affidavit earlier in the week, stating that according to the RBI's Master Directions on Natural Calamities, the loans of the Wayanad landslides victims can only be restructured or rescheduled.


Wayanad landslide victims have lost everything -- homes, land, livelihoods. Yet, the government refuses to offer even a loan waiver. Instead, they get mere loan rescheduling and restructuring. This is not a relief. This is a betrayal
-Priyanka Gandhi, Wayanad MP

The bench also directed the State government to take adequate measures, including removal of debris, to ensure that there is not another disaster like the one last year. *—PTI*

'Teeth not weapon', HC bins assault case

MUMBAI, 10 APRIL

The Bombay High Court has ruled that human teeth cannot be classified as a dangerous weapon capable of causing serious harm, quashing an FIR filed by a woman against her in-laws.

In a decision delivered on 4 April, Justices Vibha Kankanwadi and Sanjay Deshmukh, sitting at the Aurangabad bench, examined a complaint alleging that during a physical altercation in April 2020, one of the woman's sisters-in-law bit her, inflicting harm with a so-called dangerous weapon.

The complainant's medical reports indicated only minor injuries from teeth marks. The court determined that, under Section 324 of the Indian Penal Code, injuries must be

inflicted by an instrument likely to cause death or serious injury, and noted that the evidence did not support such a claim.

Consequently, the bench allowed a petition from the accused, dismissing the case and stating it would be an abuse of the legal process to subject them to trial without substantive grounds. The judgment also highlighted potential underlying property disputes between the parties involved. *—PTI*

MAHAVIR JAYANTHI

Mahavir Jayanthi celebrations in Patna and Ahemedabad. The festival commemorates the birth of Lord Mahavir, the 24th Tirthankara of Jainism. Mahavir is revered for establishing core Jain values, including Ahimsa (non-violence)

PHOTO: PTI

Mukhija received rape, death threats; NCW orders probe

NEW DELHI, 10 APRIL

The National Commission for Women (NCW) on Thursday urged the law enforcement agencies to identify and prosecute the offenders behind the rape and death threats received by social media influencer Apoorva Mukhija following her appearance on the controversial web show 'India's Got Latent'.

The NCW took suo motu cognisance and condemned the abusive messages directed at her on Instagram and other social media platforms after screenshots of the threats surfaced online.

Calling the online abuse "despicable", the Commission asserted that no woman should feel unsafe.

"Issuing threats of sexual violence or death sets a dangerous precedent and must be dealt with sternly," the NCW said, urging the law enforcement agencies to identify and prosecute the offenders.

Apoorva Mukhija is one of the comics implicated in the controversial 'India's Got Latent' row

PHOTO: INSTAGRAM @the.rebel.kid

The NCW has written to Maharashtra Director General of Police Sanjay Kumar Verma. The Commission also directed that necessary support and security be extended to Mukhija.

While the NCW reiterated that it takes a strong view against crude and offensive content, it clarified that under no circumstances can such abuse, particularly in the form of rape threats, be justified or ignored.

"The responsibility to create a safe and respectful digital environment lies not just with law enforcement, but also with social media platforms and society at large," the NCW said.

The developments come weeks after the NCW summoned Mukhija and Ranveer Allahbadia, over 'India's Got Latent' row. The show was hosted by comedian Samay Raina. *—PTI*

Dalit student forced to take exam outside when on period

COIMBATORE, 10 APRIL

A principal of a matriculation school in Senguttaipalayam of Tamil Nadu has been suspended following an incident involving a Class VIII student who wrote her annual exam while sitting on the steps outside her classroom during her first menstrual cycle.

The situation came to light when a video of the girl, allegedly from a Scheduled Caste community, went viral, prompting inquiries by a police team led by Additional Superintendent of Police, Shrishti Singh. In response to the public outcry, the state's school education department demanded an explanation from the school management.

School Education Minister Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi announced the principal's suspension, stating, "Oppression against children in any form cannot be tolerated. Dear student, you are not alone! We stand with you."

A Dalit student in Senguttaipalayam, Tamil Nadu was forced to take her exam on the staircase outside of class

PHOTO: X

The girl's father said that they had requested a separate desk but the school denied this too. As a result, she endured significant discomfort sitting on the steps for over two hours. *—PTI*

Four die after being arrested for begging in Shirdi

MUMBAI, 10 APRIL

NCP (SP) MLA Rohit Pawar has called for an investigation after alleging that four of 51 individuals arrested for begging in Shirdi have died in hospital.

Pawar claims that these individuals were taken into custody on charges of begging and, upon deteriorating health, were admitted to the district hospital, where four sadly passed away.

He said there were inhuman acts taking place, highlighting reports of neglect during their confinement, such as being denied water and inadequate medical care.

Pawar drew parallels to the recent controversial death of Somnath Suryavanshi, demanding accountability and an investigation into the treatment of these individuals to prevent further human rights abuses. *—PTI*

Delhi records warmest night; heatwaves expected in Andhra

AMARAVATI, 10 APRIL

New Delhi reported both warm and very warm night conditions, the highest of the season so far, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

According to the IMD, a "warm night" is declared when the maximum temperature remains 40 degrees Celsius or more, and the minimum temperature is 4.5 to 6.4 degrees celsius above normal.

A "very warm night" is declared when the minimum temperature departure exceeds 6.4 degrees Celsius.

The city's minimum temperature of 25.9 degrees Celsius, released on Thursday, was 5.9 degrees above normal -- breaking Wednesday's record of 25.6 degrees -- making it the highest minimum temperature in April in the last three years, according to official data.

PHOTO: FREEPIK

Meanwhile, Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority forecasted heatwave conditions in 17 mandals across the state on Thursday. "Out of the 17 mandals, six in Krishna district, four in NTR, two each in Parvathipuram Manyam, Guntur, and Palnadu, and one in Eluru are expected to suffer heatwaves," it said in a press release. *—PTI*

5 granted bail in Kottayam college ragging case

KOTTAYAM, 10 APRIL

A Kottayam Sessions Court in Kerala has granted bail to five students accused in a notorious ragging case at a government nursing college, highlighting their young age and lack of prior criminal records as grounds for potential reformation.

The accused—Samuel Johnson, 20, Rahul Raj, 22, Jeev 18, Rijil Jith, 20, and Vivek, 21—were arrested on 12 February after allegations surfaced of them subjecting junior students to months of severe harassment.

Despite three unsuccessful attempts to secure bail from various courts, the students have now been temporarily released, though they have been expelled from the college. *—PTI*

NOT A MARTYR?

'Ignored' martyred IAF officer's parents seek change in govt policy

DEHRADUN, 10 APRIL

The parents of Squadron Leader Abhimanyu Rai, who died in a trainer jet crash, say they were ignored for entitlements and honours that went exclusively to their daughter-in-law and are demanding a change in government policy.

33-year-old Squadron Leader Rai died in a plane crash on 4 December, 2023, near the Air Force Academy in Hyderabad while training a foreign cadet. He was flying a Pilatus PC-7 Mark-II aircraft, when it crashed, killing both of them.

Group Captain Amitabh Rai (retd) and his wife Chitralekha said feel the policy for such cases needs to be tweaked to accommodate the parents of

Abhimanyu Rai

PHOTO: INSTAGRAM

the martyred bravehearts apart from their wives.

"We know of at least a dozen parents of martyrs who have been ignored when it came to according entitlements, which went exclusively to their wives," Chitralekha told PTI on Wednesday.

"One year and three months have passed since we suffered the worst tragedy of our life. But we did not receive even a word of condolence to date from either the Prime Minister or the Defence Minister," Amitabh Rai said.

"Why should a word of condolence be the exclusive privilege of only the martyr's wife," he asked.

"The wife of a slain soldier is called a 'veer nari' (brave woman) but not his mother. Is it fair?" Rai asked, noting that it was a systemic issue.

"As his death was not a 'battle casualty', they don't treat our son as a martyr. But didn't he die for the nation?" Chitralekha asked *—PTI*

Trump pushes global economy to brink and then...

Week that Trump pushed global economy to brink with tariffs and then pulled back

The stock market was soaring and the sun was shining when President Donald Trump stepped out of the Oval Office on Wednesday afternoon. Less than two hours earlier, he had retreated from his plans to increase tariffs on many US trading partners, and investors were rejoicing after bracing for a global economic meltdown.

"You've got the markets seeing your brilliance," Senator John Barrasso, a Republican from Wyoming, told the President.

Trump agreed. "Nobody's ever heard of it," he declared.

It was a typical bit of hyperbole that, in this case, was true. Even by the standards of Trump's second term, the saga that had played out over the past week left the world struggling to catch its breath.

The President, of his own doing, had single-handedly pushed the global economy to the brink of chaos with new tariffs. The stock market cratered, businesses tore up their plans and foreign leaders prepared for a future without the world's richest nation at the center of international trade.

And then Trump backed down. Seven days after announcing what would have amounted to America's largest tax hike since World War II in an elaborate Rose Garden ceremony, he rolled back most of the tariffs in a surprise post on his social media website.

"I think the word would be flexible," he said later despite days of insisting that he wouldn't bend. "You have to be flexible."

President Donald Trump speaks during an executive order signing event in the White House **PHOTO: PTI**

Uncertainty lingers as trade talks continue

It was unclear what the president had accomplished, beyond the satisfaction of, in his words, having other countries "kissing my ass" to try to talk him out of the tariffs. No new trade deals have been reached, although administration officials said negotiations are underway.

However, real damage has been done. The back-and-forth over tariffs shook confidence in US leadership, exposed fractures within Trump's team and rattled companies that rely on global sources for products and international customers for sales. Americans who use the stock market to save for retirement and college suffered days of angst.

The turmoil isn't over yet, either. Trump's 10 per cent blanket tariffs initially imposed on Saturday are now applied to dozens of nations. He also jacked up tariffs to 125 per cent on imports from China, leaving the world bracing for a showdown between the first and second largest economies. There are 25 per cent tariffs on Canada and Mexico, America's largest trading partners, as well as 25 per cent taxes on imported autos, steel and aluminium.

Other tariffs — including 24 per cent on Japan, 25 per cent on South Korea, 20 per cent on the European Union — are on hold for 90 days to allow for trade talks.

"This just accentuates the policy uncertainty and sense of unreliability Trump is creating," said William Reinsch, a former US trade official now at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. While Reinsch said it's good news that Trump didn't move forward with some of his highest tariffs, "how does anybody know that he won't change his mind on Friday or next week?"

Trump makes his announcement on Liberation Day

US flags were draped along the White House colonnade for a red-white-and-blue backdrop when Trump announced his tariffs on Wednesday, 2 April.

"My fellow Americans, this is Liberation Day," he said. The president held up a poster listing the tariffs that he would slap on each country — 32 per cent for Thailand, 49 per cent for Cambodia, 26 per cent for India, and on and on. People around the world squinted to decipher the numbers that would reset critical economic relationships.

The day after the announcement, Trump jetted to Florida for the weekend.

"The markets are going to boom, the stock is going to boom, the country is going to boom," he promised while leaving the White House, the whirring rotors of Marine One sometimes overpowering his voice.

But the market was crashing, posting its biggest single-day loss since the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic five years earlier. And around the country and the world, the fallout spread over the weekend.

Fulcrum Coffee Roasters in Seattle braced for rising costs for beans from Southeast Asia and espresso machines from Italy. Stellantis, the automaker behind brands like Jeep and Ram, announced it would pause production at plants in Mexico and Canada, leading to temporary layoffs at other facilities in Indiana and Michigan, a reminder of how interconnected vehicle supply chains have become.

The Dutch division of Tata Steel said it would cut 1,600 employees, about a fifth of its workforce. Ireland Prime Minister Michael Martin said "there is no way to sugar coat" the situation as business with the US started tapering off.

Trump faces growing pushback from his own party

The markets were still in a panic on Monday when an unverified report circulated that the president was considering a 90-day pause on the tariffs. Stocks briefly soared before investors realized the information was wrong.

"We're not looking at that," Trump said as hopes for the rumoured reprieve vanished.

With fears of a recession growing, Republican lawmakers returning to the Capitol for the workweek were peppered with questions about the tariffs and what they would do in response.

Sen Ron Johnson of Wisconsin was asked on Tuesday if he understood Trump's strategy, and responded by asking "does anybody?" Some of his state's premier companies like Kohl's expected higher costs, while its dairy farms expected to struggle to sell milk and cheese. Harley-Davidson was a target of planned reciprocal tariffs by the European Union.

Sen. Thom Tillis of North Carolina was even more blunt that day during a hearing with Trump's top trade representative, Jamieson Greer. If the tariff plans don't work, he said, "I'm just trying to figure out whose throat I need to choke."

Trump retreats, and aides call it part of the strategy all along

The tariffs on allies like Japan, South Korea and the European Union took effect at 12:01 a.m. on Wednesday, and there were no signs that Trump would back down when the sun came up in Washington.

"BE COOL! Everything is going to work out well," he posted on Truth Social.

Trump also wrote: "THIS IS A GREAT TIME TO BUY!!!" — advice that turned out to be fortuitous. The president later said he'd been talking with his aides that morning about pausing the tariffs, an announcement that would send the stock market soaring.

Greer was back on Capitol Hill for another hearing when Trump made his announcement.

Rep. Steven Horsford, a Nevada Democrat, asked if Trump's trade representative knew that the tariffs he had just spent at least two hours defending had been paused.

"I understand the decision was made a few minutes ago," Greer said.

Horsford erupted, saying "this is amateur hour, and it needs to stop."

At the White House, press secretary Karoline Leavitt scolded reporters for not understanding the president's plans.

"Many of you in the media clearly missed The Art of the Deal," she said, referencing Trump's book from 1987. "You clearly failed to see what President Trump is doing here."

But the administration sent mixed messages even as it rolled back the tariffs.

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said the decision had nothing to do with the markets.

"This was driven by the president's strategy," he told reporters outside the West Wing. "He and I had a long talk on Sunday, and this was his strategy all along."

Trump himself later contradicted Bessent.

"I was watching the bond market," he said. "That bond market is very tricky." —*PTI*

SALAR ساہر

'Great time to buy': Did Trump just manipulate mkt?

When Donald Trump offered some financial advice Wednesday on morning, stocks were wavering between gains and losses.

But that was about to change.

"THIS IS A GREAT TIME TO BUY!!! DJT," he wrote on his social media platform Truth Social at 9:37 am.

Less than four hours later, Trump announced a 90-day pause on nearly all his tariffs. Stocks soared on the news, closing up 9.5 per cent by the end of trading. The market, measured by the S&P 500, gained back about $4 trillion, or 70 per cent, of the value it had lost over the previous four trading days.

It was a prescient call by the President. Maybe too prescient.

"He's loving this, this control over markets, but he better be careful," said Trump critic and former White House ethics lawyer, Richard Painter, noting that securities law prohibits trading on insider information or helping others do so. "The people who bought when they saw that post made a lot of money."

The question is, Was Trump already contemplating the tariff pause when he made that post?

Asked about when he arrived at his decision, Trump gave a muddled answer.

"I would say this morning," he said. "Over the last few days, I've been thinking about it."

He then added, "Fairly early this morning."

Asked for clarification on the timing in an email to the White House later, a spokesperson didn't answer directly but defended Trump's post as part of his job.

"It is the responsibility of the President of the United States to reassure the markets and Americans about their economic security in the face of nonstop media fearmongering," wrote White House spokesman Kush Desai.

Another curiosity of the posting was Trump's signoff with his initials.

DJT is also the stock symbol for Trump Media and Technology Group, the parent company of the president's social media platform Truth Social.

It's not clear if Trump was saying buying stocks in general, or Trump Media in particular. The White House was asked, but didn't address that either. Trump includes "DJT" on his posts intermittently, typically to emphasize that he has personally written the message.

The ambiguity about what Trump meant didn't stop people from pouring money into that stock.

Trump Media closed up 22.67 per cent, soaring twice as much as the broader market, a stunning performance by a company that lost $400 million last year and is seemingly unaffected by whether tariffs would be imposed or paused.

Trump's 53 per cent ownership stake in the company, now in a trust controlled by his oldest son, Donald Trump Jr, rose by $415 million on the day.

Trump Media was bested, albeit by only two-hundreds of a percentage point, by another Trump administration stock pick - Elon Musk's Tesla.

Last month, Trump held an extraordinary news conference outside the White House praising the company and its cars. That was followed by a Fox TV appearance by his commerce secretary urging viewers to buy the stock.

Tesla's surge Wednesday added $20 billion to Musk's fortunes.

Kathleen Clark, a government ethics law expert at Washington University School of Law, says Trump's post in other administrations would have been investigated, but is not likely not to trigger any reaction, save for maybe more Truth Social viewers.

"He's sending the message that he can effectively and with impunity manipulate the market," she said, "As in: Watch this space for future stock tips." —*PTI*

Protesters hold signs as they joined a 'Hands Off!' demonstration against US President Donald Trump and Elon Musk in London on Saturday **PHOTO: PTI**

LETTERS write to us at salarenglishdigital@gmail.com

US stock market makes historic gains after Trump pause tariffs

US stocks soared to one of their best days in history on a euphoric Wall Street after President Donald Trump said he would back off on most of his tariffs temporarily, as investors had so desperately hoped he would.

The S&P 500 Wednesday surged 9.5 per cent, an amount that would count as a good year for the market. It had been sinking earlier in the day on worries that Trump's trade war could drag the global economy into a recession. But then came the posting on social media that investors worldwide had been waiting and wishing for.

"I have authorised a 90-day PAUSE," Trump said, after recognising the more than 75 countries that he said have been negotiating on trade and had not retaliated against his latest increases in tariffs.

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent later told reporters that Trump was pausing his so-called reciprocal tariffs on most of the country's biggest trading partners, but maintaining his 10 per cent tariff on nearly all global imports.

China was a huge exception, though, with Trump saying tariffs are going up to 125 per cent against its products. That raises the possibility of more swings ahead that could stun financial markets. The trade war is not over, and an escalating battle between the world's two largest economies can create plenty of damage. US stocks are also still below where they were just a week ago, when Trump announced worldwide tariffs on what he called "Liberation Day".

But on Wednesday, at least, the focus on Wall Street was on the positive. The Dow Jones Industrial Average shot to a gain of 2,962 points, or 7.9 per cent. The Nasdaq composite leaped 12.2 per cent. The S&P 500 had its third-best day since 1940.

The relief came after doubts had crept in about whether Trump cared about the financial pain the US stock market was taking because of his tariffs. The S&P 500, the index that sits at the centre of many 401(k) accounts, came into the day nearly 19 per cent below its record set less than two months ago.

That surprised many professional investors, who had long thought that a president who used to crow about records for the Dow under his watch would pull back on policies if they sent markets reeling.

Wednesday's rally pulled the S&P 500 index away from the edge of what's called a "bear market". That's what professionals call it when a run-of-the-mill drop of 10 per cent for US stocks, which happens every year or so, graduates into a more vicious fall of 20 per cent. The index is now down 11.2 per cent from its record.

Wall Street also got a boost from a smooth auction of US Treasurys in the bond market **PHOTO: PTI**

Wall Street also got a boost from a relatively smooth auction of US Treasurys in the bond market Wednesday. Earlier jumps in Treasury yields had rattled the market, indicating increasing levels of stress. Trump himself said Wednesday that he had been watching the bond market "getting a little queasy".

Analysts say several reasons could be behind the rise in yields, including hedge funds and other investors having to sell their Treasury bonds to raise cash in order to make up for losses in the stock market. Investors outside the United States may also be selling their US Treasurys because of the trade war. Such actions would push down prices for Treasurys, which in turn would push up their yields.

Regardless of the reasons behind it, higher yields on Treasurys add pressure on the stock market and push upward on rates for mortgages and other loans for US households and businesses.

The moves are particularly notable because US Treasury yields have historically dropped - not risen - during scary times for the market because the bonds are usually seen as some of the safest possible investments. This week's sharp rise had brought the yield on the 10-year Treasury back to where it was in late February.

After approaching 4.50 per cent in the morning, the 10-year yield pulled back to 4.34 per cent following Trump's pause and the Treasury's auction. That's still up from 4.26 per cent late Tuesday and from just 4.01 per cent at the end of last week.

Of course, the trade war is not over. Bessent and Trump clearly showed their anger at China, which has been ratcheting up its own tariffs on US goods and announcing other countermeasures with each move Trump has made.

China earlier said it would raise tariffs on US goods to 84 per cent on Thursday. "If the US insists on further escalating its economic and trade restrictions, China has the firm will and abundant means to take necessary countermeasures and fight to the end" the Ministry of Commerce said.

Later the US Treasury secretary said in a message to countries worldwide, but perhaps most directly aimed at China, "Do not retaliate, and you will be rewarded."

Wednesday's rally provided the latest reminder that some of the US stock market's best days have been clustered around some of its worst days historically. That's one of the reasons many financial advisers suggest not trying to time the market and selling stocks and other investments meant for the long term when nervous, because of the risk of missing out on such huge up days.

The biggest gain for the S&P 500 since World War II was an 11.6 per cent surge on Oct 13, 2008, for example. That was during the depths of the Great Recession, when worries were high that the financial system was collapsing and the S&P 500 was in the midst of a nearly 57 per cent plunge from its peak in late 2007 until its bottom in March 2009. A couple weeks later, the index had another one of its best days in history, soaring 10.8 per cent.

Wednesday's gains were widespread across the US stock market, and 98 per cent of the stocks in the S&P 500 index rallied.

Leading the way were airlines and other stocks that need customers feeling confident enough to travel for work or for vacation.

Delta Air Lines soared 23.4 per cent. Earlier in the day, it had pulled financial forecasts for 2025 as the trade war scrambles expectations for business and household spending and depresses bookings across the travel sector. All told, the S&P 500 rocketed higher by 474.13 points to 5,456.90. The Dow Jones Industrial gained 2,962.86 to 40,608.45, and the Nasdaq composite surged 1,857.06 to 17,124.97.

In stock markets abroad, indexes tumbled across most of Europe and much of Asia after they closed before Trump's announcement.

London's FTSE 100 dropped 2.9 per cent, Tokyo's Nikkei 225 sank 3.9 per cent and the CAC 40 fell 3.3 per cent in Paris. Chinese stocks were an outlier, and indexes rose 0.7 per cent in Hong Kong and 1.3 per cent in Shanghai. —*PTI*

China looks for allies to thwart US tariff assault

Nations hesitant to join the main target of President Trump's trade war as Beijing vows to 'fight till the end'

TAIPEI, 10 APRIL

Even as the US layered on more tariffs on it, China has started reaching out to other nations in what appears to be an attempt to form a united front to compel Washington to retreat.

Days into the effort, its meeting has been only a partial success with many countries unwilling to ally with the main target of President Donald Trump's trade war.

Facing the cratering of global markets, Trump on Wednesday backed off his tariffs on most nations for 90 days, saying countries were lining up to negotiate more favourable conditions.

China has refused to seek talks, saying that it would "fight to the end" in a tariff war, prompting Trump to further jack up the tax rate on Chinese imports to 125 per cent. China has retaliated with 84 per cent tariffs on US goods, which took effect on Thursday. It has reduced the import of US films and called on Washington to return to fair dialogue without threats.

China has thus far focused on Europe, with a phone call between Premier Li Qiang and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen "sending a positive message to the outside world".

"China is willing to work with the EU to jointly implement the important consensus reached by the leaders of China and the EU, strengthen communication and exchanges, and deepen China–EU trade, investment and industrial cooperation," the official Xinhua News Agency reported. *—PTI*

Beijing, in retaliation to the US tariffs, has reduced the import of US films and called on Washington to return to fair dialogue without threats **PHOTO: X**

Trump to make 'America's showers great again'

WASHINGTON, 10 APRIL

US President Donald Trump on Wednesday signed an executive order to "make America's showers great again" – the order removes the water-pressure restrictions on showerheads, a media report said. "In my case, I like to take a nice shower, to take care of my beautiful hair," the report quoted Trump as saying as he signed the order on Wednesday. *—Agencies*

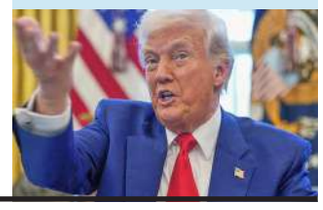
ISRAEL WOULD LEAD STRIKE ON IRAN: TRUMP

WASHINGTON, 10 APRIL

President Donald Trump said on Wednesday that Israel would be the "leader" of a potential military strike against Iran unless Tehran gives up its nuclear programme.

Trump said this ahead of talks involving US and Iranian officials this weekend in Oman. He said earlier that the talks would be direct, while Iran said it would be indirect. "If it requires military," Trump said. "Israel will obviously be very much ...the leader of that," Trump said.

The US is increasingly concerned as Tehran is closer than ever to a workable weapon. But Trump said that he does not have a definitive timeline for the talks to come to a resolution. *—PTI*



EU pauses tariff retaliation for 90 days

BRUSSELS, 10 APRIL

The European Union's executive commission on Thursday said it will put retaliation measures on hold for 90 days to match US President Donald Trump's pause on his new tariffs on global trading partners and leave room for a negotiated solution. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said the commission, which handles trade for the bloc's 27 members, "took note of the announcement by President Trump." New tariffs on $23B of US goods will be put on hold for 90 days because "we want to give negotiations a chance... If negotiations are not satisfactory, our countermeasures will kick in," she said. *—PTI*

Kash loses role in gun control body

WASHINGTON, 10 APRIL

FBI Director Kash Patel was quietly removed weeks ago as the acting chief of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, which is the US gun control body, and has been replaced with the Army Secretary Daniel Driscoll, three people familiar with the matter have said. It was not immeiately clear why Patel was replaced by Army Secretary Driscoll to lead the Justice Department agency that's responsible for enforcing the nation's gun laws. *—PTI*

Trump targets 'anonymous' author

WASHINGTON, 10 APRIL

US President Donald Trump has ramped up efforts to punish critics by signing memoranda directing the Justice Department to investigate former officials Chris Krebs and Miles Taylor, stripping them of their security clearances. Taylor, who authored a critical op-ed under the pseudonym "Anonymous," was labelled a "traitor" by Trump. The law firm Susman Godfrey, representing Dominion Voting Systems, is also targeted for sanctions under Trump's orders. *—PTI*

2 scribes detained in Turkey for covering protest

ISTANBUL, 10 APRIL

Two journalists in Turkey were detained on Thursday on what their newspapers said were false charges stemming from their work. Writers Timur Soykan of BirGun and Cumhuriyet's Murat Agirel were detained at their homes on charges of making threats and blackmail by the Istanbul Chief Public Prosecutor's Office. Both papers have criticised President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's government. They had extensively covered events surrounding the 19 March arrest and subsequent imprisonment of Istanbul's mayor, which led to the largest protests in Turkiye in more than a decade. More than a dozen journalists have been detained at their homes after covering the protests, which were banned by the authorities. *—PTI*

Man shot dead after firing at NY cop barracks

MALTA, 10 APRIL

A man was fatally shot by troopers on Wednesday after he fired several rounds at a State Police barracks in upstate New York, authorities said. The man opened fire with a "hunting-style rifle" shortly before 2pm at the Saratoga barracks in Malta, located 48 km north of the capital city of Albany, police said in a statement. After receiving a report of shots fired near the barracks, troopers left the building and "engaged the suspect, fatally wounding the individual," the statement said. Roads surrounding the barracks were closed about two hours later, as police investigated. Police said the shooting posed no ongoing threat to public safety. *—PTI*

Suspected US airstrikes kill three in Yemen

DUBAI, 10 APRIL

Suspected US airstrikes in Yemen overnight into Thursday killed at least three people, while the death toll in an earlier attack rose to 13 dead, the Iran-backed Houthi rebels said. The rebels meanwhile aired footage they said showed the debris left after shooting down yet another American MQ-9 Reaper drone. The 13 killed in strikes Tuesday night around Hodeida's al-Hawak district made it one of the deadliest single incidents in the ongoing American campaign, the rebels said. Another 15 people were wounded. *—PTI*

30 defence chiefs to discuss Ukraine

BRUSSELS, 10 APRIL

Defence ministers from approximately 30 countries are set to convene at NATO headquarters on Thursday to advance plans for deploying troops to Ukraine as part of a future peace agreement with Russia. This meeting, which marks the inaugural gathering of the so-called coalition of the willing, follows a recent visit to Kyiv by senior British and French military officials.

While the coalition meeting aims to flush out a previously reached agreement, the US absence puts the operation's success in doubt, as it relies on US Army assistance.

The formation of a robust force, estimated at 10,000 to 30,000 troops, is seen as a pivotal test of Europe's capability to defend its interests and security independently. The troop deployment will depend on the specifics of any peace agreement, with forces likely stationed further from Ukraine's border with Russia.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy meets with Chief of Staff of the French Armed Forces Thierry Burkhard and Britain's Chief of the Defense Staff Admiral Tony Radakin in Kyiv **PHOTO: X**

Meanwhile, Ukrainian officials warned of a renewed Russian offensive in the coming weeks to put pressure on Kyiv and strengthen Kremlin's position in ceasefire negotiations.

On Friday, representatives from around 50 nations will gather at NATO to bolster military support for Ukraine, although US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth is not anticipated to attend.

155 Chinese fighting war

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said at least 155 Chinese citizens are fighting for Russia in the war. He said this after two Chinese fighters were captured earlier this week. *—PTI*

US-Russian freed under prisoner exchange deal

MOSCOW, 10 APRIL

Ksenia Karelina, a dual US-Russian national, was released from a Russian prison on treason charges in a prisoner exchange with Washington, her lawyer confirmed. Karelina, also known as Ksenia Khavana, is currently "on a plane back home to the United States," according to US Secretary of State Marco Rubio's post on social media platform X. She was arrested in Yekaterinburg in February 2024 and convicted of treason later that year for allegedly donating approximately $52 to a charity supporting Ukraine. US authorities have condemned the charges against her as "absolutely ludicrous." *—PTI*

B'desh issues new arrest warrant against Hasina

DHAKA, 10 APRIL

A Bangladeshi court has issued a fresh arrest warrant on deposed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, her daughter Saima Wajed Putul, and 17 others in a corruption case concerning the procurement of a residential plot.

Sheikh Hasina **PHOTO: PTI**

On Thursday, Dhaka Metropolitan Senior Special Judge Zakir Hossain Galib approved the Anti-Corruption Commission's (ACC) charge sheet and issued the warrant as the accused remain at large.

Judge Galib instructed the ACC to present its investigation report on 4 May, in relation to the state-owned Rajdhani Unyan Kartripakkha leasing a plot in the Purbachal area, located on the outskirts of Dhaka.

The ACC alleges that Putul, with ulterior motives, unlawfully influenced Hasina to obtain the plot, bypassing standard procedures and regulations. The agency claims that Putul and her family already own a residential property within RAJUK's jurisdiction. *—PTI*

DIM HOPE FOR NIGHTCLUB VICTIMS

SANTO DOMINGO, 10 APRIL

Rescue teams in the Dominican Republic continued their grim task on Thursday, sifting through the wreckage of the iconic Jet Set nightclub, where a roof collapse earlier this week claimed at least 218 lives.

With hopes of finding survivors fading, families in the capital searched forlornly for missing loved ones, expressing frustration over the lack of information despite visiting hospitals and forensic institutes.

Health Minister Dr Víctor Atallah said many of the two dozen victims in hospital are in critical condition.

The nightclub was bustling with musicians, athletes, and officials when the roof unexpectedly gave way, showering patrons with dust moments before the collapse. *—PTI*

Footage of Ukrainian POW killing sparks anger

ROME, 10 APRIL

Two newly obtained videos illuminate contrasting narratives surrounding Russia's war in Ukraine, particularly regarding the treatment of prisoners of war (POWs). The first video, captured by a Ukrainian drone, depicts Russian soldiers executing four surrendered Ukrainian troops near Piatykhatky on 13 March. In stark contrast, another video from a Russian drone shows the same incident but ends before the prisoners are killed, creating an impression that they are alive. The Ukrainian military investigating the incident as a suspected war crime, while Russia claims to treat surrendered Ukrainian soldiers in accordance with international law. Experts have described the Ukrainian video as a "clear case" of an illegal execution. *—PTI*

ROYAL VISIT

In his first known meeting since the pope's return to the Vatican after five weeks in the hospital for life-threatening double pneumonia, Pope Francis gave a private audience to King Charles III and Queen Camilla on Wednesday, the Vatican announced on Thursday **PHOTO: X**

S Korean Oppn leader enters Prez race

SEOUL, 10 APRIL

South Korean opposition leader Lee Jae-myung has officially launched his presidential campaign in the wake of last week's impeachment of former President Yoon Suk Yeol. Lee, viewed as the frontrunner in the upcoming by-election scheduled for 3 June, aims to bridge the nation's deep divisions through economic revitalisation.

Lee Jae-myung **PHOTO: X**

Having narrowly lost to Yoon in the 2022 election, Lee recently stepped down as chairman of the liberal Democratic Party to focus on his presidential bid. In a video message, he criticised Yoon's controversial martial law declaration, linking it to a growing wealth gap and social discord. He pledged to implement aggressive government spending to stimulate economic growth and address income inequality. *—PTI*

PORT USE FOR TRADE

Bangladesh unaffected by India's export curbs: Commerce adviser

DHAKA, 10 APRIL

In response to India's recent cancellation of trans-shipment facilities for Bangladeshi exports, Commerce Adviser Sheikh Bashir Uddin assured that Bangladesh would not face significant challenges as a result. The decision, announced on Wednesday, impacts Bangladesh's ability to export goods to West Asia and Europe, although trade with Nepal and Bhutan remains unaffected.

Bashir Uddin said discussions had taken place with various business representatives and buyers, revealing that Bangladesh would endeavour to navigate the situation independently. "We will attempt to overcome the crisis through our arrangements," he explained, emphasising the need to enhance commercial capacity and improve connectivity.

When questioned about potential steps in light of India's decision, Bashir Uddin acknowledged existing infrastructure issues and rising costs but expressed optimism that these challenges could be addressed.

Bangladesh relies on Indian ports for a significant portion of its exports, marking a critical point in the bilateral relationship **PHOTO: X**

On whether a formal communication would be sent to India regarding the cancellation, he noted that this was "not under consideration" at the moment. The adviser also highlighted that a temporary suspension of additional tariffs by the United States provides a timely respite and an opportunity for further discussions.

Sheikh Bashir Uddin **PHOTO: X**

The cancellation follows controversial remarks made by Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus in China, which sparked tensions between the two nations. Bangladesh relies on Indian ports for a significant portion of its exports, marking a critical point in the bilateral relationship. *—PTI*

Global mkts rally on Trump's tariffs window

Goyal says India handling situation 'wisely'; aims to increase trade with US by 250 per cent

President Donald Trump holds an executive order in the Oval Office of the White House Wednesday **PHOTO: PTI**

NEW DELHI/MUMBAI 10 APRIL

- Asian stock markets surged on Thursday after US President Donald Trump announced a 90-day pause on tariffs for 75 countries, including India. However, the Indian stock markets remained closed on Thursday due to the public holiday of Shri Mahavir Jayanti

Asian stock markets surged on Thursday after US President Donald Trump announced a 90-day pause on tariffs for 75 countries, including India. However, the Indian stock markets remained closed on Thursday due to the public holiday of Shri Mahavir Jayanti. Japan's Nikkei 225 index jumped over 8.34 per cent, while Taiwan's weighted index gained more than 9 per cent at the time of reporting. South Korea's KOSPI climbed 5 per cent while Hong Kong's Hang Seng index was up around 4 per cent. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 soared 4.5 per cent to 7,709.60 while The Shanghai Composite rose 1.1 percent to 3,223.64.

By midmorning, Germany's DAX was up 5.3 per cent at 20,720.86, while France's CAC 40 in Paris gained 5 per cent to 7,204.23. Britain's FTSE 100 surged 4.0 per cent to 7,983.37.

Investors went "from fear to euphoria," Stephen Innes, managing partner at SPI Asset Management, said in a commentary. "It's now a manageable risk, especially as global recession tail bets get unwound, and most of Asia's exporters breathe a massive sigh of relief," he said, referring to the tariffs on China, which Trump has kept.

Meanwhile, Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Thursday said that India is handling the US reciprocal tariff issue wisely, with a focus to increase its trade with the US by two and half times.

"India is handling this matter very wisely. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Donald Trump had decided back in February to strengthen our bilateral relations and sign a trade agreement that will make trade between India and the United States easier.

This will also increase trade up to USD 500 billion, which is about two and a half times more than before," Goyal said.

"It will create more job opportunities for the people and further strengthen the country's economy. I believe that India was already ahead in this race, and our discussions are making good progress," the Minister said. *—ANI/PTI*

India should avoid FTA with US, suggests GTRI

NEW DELHI, 10 APRIL

As Donald Trump announced pause on tariffs for 90 days for trade negotiations, India should avoid signing a comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the United States, as it may require India to make harmful trade-offs, Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) suggested.

It said, "Avoid a comprehensive FTA with the US as it would force India to make damaging concessions. It's a deal that would cost India more than it gains. Restrict to Zero for zero deal on 90 per cent industrial Goods. Europe has offered similar deal to the US."

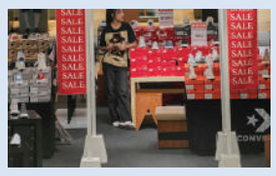
The report warned that a full FTA with the US could turn out to be a costly mistake. It highlights several demands by Washington that could hurt India's key sectors.

These include weakening India's minimum support price (MSP) system for farmers, allowing genetically modified food imports, reducing agricultural tariffs, changing patent laws to extend drug monopolies, and letting US e-commerce giants sell directly to Indian consumers. Similarly, cutting duties on automobiles could damage India's auto industry, which contributes nearly one-third to the country's manufacturing output.

"Reducing tariffs on farm goods could affect the livelihoods of hundreds of millions, while slashing duties on cars could undercut a sector that accounts for nearly a third of India's manufacturing output. The collapse of Australia's car industry after deep tariff cuts in the 1990s offers a cautionary example," it added. *—ANI/PTI*

S&P 500 soars 9.5%; one of its biggest jumps

Stocks surged to one of their biggest gains since World War II after Trump paused his tariffs against most other nations. The S&P 500 soared 9.5 per cent on Wednesday. However, the index is still below where it was when Trump announced his sweeping set of tariffs last week. The Dow Jones Industrial Average flew nearly 3,000 points higher, and the Nasdaq composite jumped 12.2 per cent. Treasury yields gave back some of their big market-rattling gains following Trump's pause on most tariffs.



90-DAY TARIFF WINDOW A RELIEF, SAY EXPORTERS

NEW DELHI, 10 APRIL

The 90-day deferral of tariffs by the US is a major relief, exporters said on Thursday.

They said that diplomatic engagement and fast-tracking negotiations for the trade pact will help India deal with these tariffs.

"A huge relief to our exporters. The 90-day deferral of the reciprocal tariff provides a critical window for diplomatic engagement and trade negotiations," Federation of Indian Export Organisations President SC Ralhan said. He added that the move reflects a strategic pause aimed at avoiding immediate economic fallout while allowing space for potential resolutions.

Welcoming the USA's decision, Mumbai-based exporter SK Saraf said that Indian industry should take advantage of high tariffs on China. *—PTI*

JLR India reports best-ever yearly performance

NEW DELHI, 10 APRIL

Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) India reported its best-ever annual performance in FY25, retailing 6,183 units — a 40 per cent rise over FY24. Wholesales increased 39 per cent to 6,266 units. The fourth quarter also marked record highs, with retail and wholesale figures reaching 1,793 and 1,710 units, reflecting year-on-year growth of 110 per cent and 118 per cent, respectively. The Defender led sales with 90 per cent growth, followed by the locally-built Range Rover and Range Rover Sport, up 72 per cent and 42 per cent. Managing Director Rajan Amba credited the success to strong brand appeal, a customer-first approach, and product excellence. He highlighted the Defender's continued dominance and the growing appeal of the Range Rover line. JLR's 'House of Brands' strategy has strengthened its position among India's luxury SUV buyers—*PTI*

Sun Pharma gets nod to launch autoimmune drug

NEW DELHI, 10 APRIL

Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd has announced that a US court has ruled in its favour, removing restrictions on the launch of its drug LEQSELVI (deuruxolitinib), used to treat autoimmune-related patchy hair loss. The company had been engaged in a patent infringement dispute with Incyte Corporation, which had resulted in a preliminary injunction blocking the drug's US launch. On 9 April 2025, the US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit heard Sun Pharma's appeal and, shortly after proceedings concluded, vacated the injunction with immediate effect. While litigation with Incyte continues, Sun Pharma is no longer subject to any legal restriction on launching LEQSELVI. The company stated it will announce its launch plans in due course *—PTI*

Indian airport revenues to soar in FY26, says ICRA

MUMBAI, 10 APRIL

Indian airport operators are expected to witness an 18–20 per cent year-on-year revenue growth in FY26, driven by rising passenger traffic, increased tariffs at key airports like Delhi, Bengaluru, and Hyderabad, and stronger non-aeronautical revenues, according to ICRA. The ratings agency projects total passenger traffic to grow 7–9 per cent to 440–450 million in FY26, following an estimated 10 per cent rise in FY25 to 412–415 million. International traffic continues to outpace domestic, buoyed by robust tourism and improved connectivity. Significant capital expenditure over Rs 1 lakh crore is anticipated over the next 4–5 years, including greenfield airports at Jewar, Navi Mumbai, and Bhogapuram, and expansions at Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Mumbai. Despite higher debt obligations, airport operators are expected to maintain stable credit in FY26, supported by healthy margins, steady cash accruals, and sound liquidity, ICRA noted *—PTI*

Baldota announces steel projects worth ₹54,000 cr

NEW DELHI, 10 APRIL

The Baldota Group on Thursday announced its plan to set up a steel project worth Rs 54,000 crore in Karnataka, having a production capacity of 10.5 million tonnes (MT). The first phase of the greenfield project will begin this year, creating lakhs of jobs. The group currently operates in areas of renewable energy, shipping, pellets, gases and mining. The company has received environmental clearance from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change for 3.5 MT production capacity. The group aims to contribute 10.5 MT to India's target of producing 300 MT of steel by 2030. The country's current capacity stands at around 180 MT. *—PTI*

BUYS ONE-THIRD

BlackRock highest investor in Adani's $750M bond issue

NEW DELHI, 10 APRIL

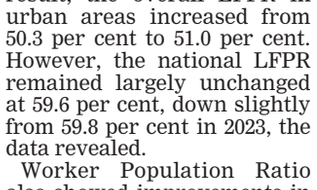


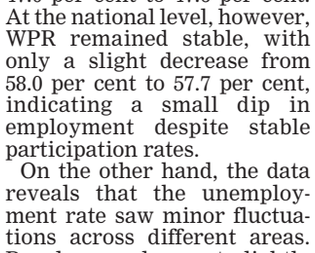
PHOTO: X

BlackRock, a global investment giant, is the largest subscriber to the Adani Group's recent $750M private bond issuance, acquiring one-third of the total offering. This bond, which has a tenure of three to five years, is part of a financing strategy to support the group's acquisition of ITD Cementation and other growth initiatives.

The investment arrives during a tumultuous time for the Adani Group, following a November indictment by the US Department of Justice in a bribery case, raising questions about its fundraising capabilities. However, BlackRock's participation signals confidence in the group's stability, as the firm continues to eye opportunities in India's infrastructure sector.

BlackRock Chairman Larry Fink highlighted the strategic importance of infrastructure investments earlier this year, reinforcing the firm's commitment to the sector post its significant acquisition of Global Infrastructure Partners.

In addition to BlackRock, several other institutional investors from the US and Europe participated in the bond issue. The latest capital raise is nearly four times larger than a previous $200 million issuance by the Adani Group in February, marking a significant development in the conglomerate's funding activities amidst ongoing legal challenges. *—PTI*



MFI SECTOR ON RECOVERY PATH, SAYS REPORT

NEW DELHI, 10 APRIL

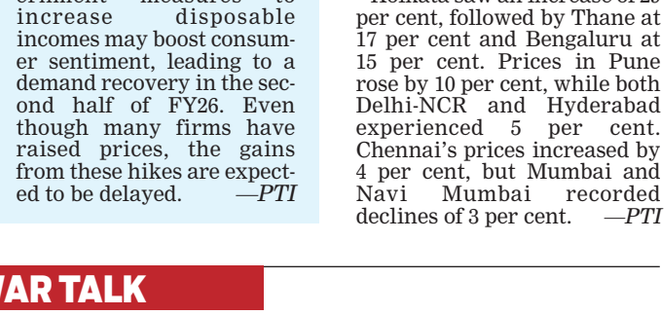
India's microfinance sector, which went through a tough phase in recent quarters, is now showing early signs of recovery, according to a report by Investec Equities.

The report said many companies working in this space are reporting better performance, and asset quality is starting to improve. This suggests that the worst might be behind for the sector. It said, "The current cycle of Indian microfinance appears to be approaching its conclusion, with AQ indicators showing improvement across various MFIs".

Unlike earlier cases, this slowdown was not caused by any external event like a natural disaster or government regulation. It happened due to problems within, it said. *—PTI*

India's CNG need to rise 60% by 2030

NEW DELHI, 10 APRIL



India's natural gas consumption is likely to rise 60 per cent by 2030 on the back of rise in usage of the fuel as CNG in automobiles and for cooking and industrial purposes, said a study by Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB).

The natural gas is used to produce electricity, make fertiliser or turned into CNG for running automobiles and piped to household kitchens for cooking. Its consumption is expected to rise from 188 million metric standard cubic meter per day (mmscmd) in 2023–24 to 297 mmscmd by 2030 under a Good-to-Go scenario, which assumes moderate growth and developments based on current trends and commitments, the study said. It is projected to rise to 496 mmscmd by 2040 under the same scenario.

Under the Good to Best scenario that considers accelerated progress, favourable policy implementation, and enhanced investments leading to higher-than-expected growth, consumption could rise to 365 mmscmd by 2030 and 630 mmscmd by 2040.

In both scenarios, city gas distribution (for automobiles, households and industries) will bring the anchor demand – 50 mmscmd out of 110 mmscmd incremental demand by 2030 and 129 mmscmd out of 198 mmscmd incremental demand between 2030 and 2040 under the Good to Go scenario. *—PTI*

Employment rate improves in 2023–24

NEW DELHI, 10 APRIL

The Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) in urban areas saw a marginal increase, while the rural employment rose slightly between 2023 and 2024, revealed the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation data on Wednesday.

The data revealed that LFPR in urban areas saw a marginal increase, with male participation rising from 74.3 per cent in 2023 to 75.6 per cent in 2024.

Female participation also saw a slight uptick from 25.5 per cent to 25.8 per cent. As a result, the overall LFPR in urban areas increased from 50.3 per cent to 51.0 per cent. However, the national LFPR remained largely unchanged at 59.6 per cent, down slightly from 59.8 per cent in 2023, the data revealed.

Worker Population Ratio also showed improvements in urban areas, increasing from 47.0 per cent to 47.6 per cent. At the national level, however, WPR remained stable, with only a slight decrease from 58.0 per cent to 57.7 per cent, indicating a small dip in employment despite stable participation rates.

On the other hand, the data reveals that the unemployment rate saw minor fluctuations across different areas. Rural unemployment slightly decreased from 4.3 per cent to 4.2 per cent. *—ANI*

FMCG faces stiff contest from small, regional brands

NEW DELHI, 10 APRIL

UFMCG companies face rising competition from smaller regional brands and new-age direct-to- companies, Axis Securities' report revealed.

The pressure to clear old stock in traditional retail shops adds to their challenges.

"The operating environment remains challenging, as companies face stiff competition from regional players, increasing presence of D2C brands and inventory liquidation pressures in general trade channels," the report stated.

However, the beverage companies are expected to perform well this season.

Overall volume of growth is expected to remain weak. Interestingly, rural areas are performing better than urban markets.

The high cost of raw materials and inputs are pushing companies to increase the prices of their products, which are expected to support revenue growth. The companies are having difficulty in maintaining healthy gross margins.

Interest rate cut, a good monsoon together with government measures to increase disposable incomes may boost consumer sentiment, leading to a demand recovery in the second half of FY26. Even though many firms have raised prices, the gains from these hikes are expected to be delayed. *—PTI*

HOUSING PROJECT PRICES SURGE BY 9% IN FY24–25

NEW DELHI, 10 APRIL

The weighted average prices of new housing projects across nine Indian cities increased by 9 per cent in the last fiscal year, reaching Rs 13,197 per square foot, according to real estate analytics firm PropEquity. The rise has been attributed to escalating input costs, including land, labour and construction materials.

Kolkata saw an increase of 29 per cent, followed by Thane at 17 per cent and Bengaluru at 15 per cent. Prices in Pune rose by 10 per cent, while both Delhi-NCR and Hyderabad experienced 5 per cent. Chennai's prices increased by 4 per cent, but Mumbai and Navi Mumbai recorded declines of 3 per cent. *—PTI*

Biocon Biologics' cancer product gets USDFA nod

NEW DELHI, 10 APRIL

Biocon Biologics on Thursday said it has received an approval from the US health regulator to market a cancer treatment biosimilar product.

The Biocon Ltd subsidiary has received approval from the US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) for Jobevne (bevacizumab-nwgd), a biosimilar Bevacizumab for intravenous use.

Jobevne, a recombinant humanised monoclonal antibody used to treat different types of cancer, is a biosimilar to the reference product Avastin (bevacizumab).

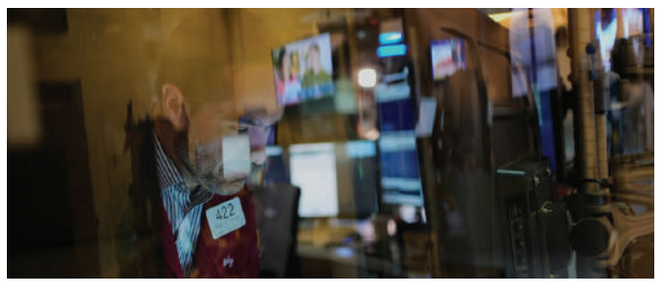
Jobevne is a vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) inhibitor that binds with VEGF and blocks the interaction with its receptors to prevent angiogenesis, combating cancer by restricting blood supply to the tumour.

The approval expands Biocon Biologics' biosimilar oncology portfolio in the US. The company also markets Bevacizumab in Europe and Canada under the name Abeymy. *—PTI*

TRADE-WAR TALK

What's dead cat bounce in market? 6 terms to know

NEW YORK, 10 APRIL



Bulls, bears and dead cats are lurking in the background of President Donald Trump's trade war. As the effects of the administration's latest tariffs unfold, news consumers may confront unfamiliar terms related to financial markets. Here are some.

Bear/bull market: A bear market is a term used by Wall Street when an index such as the S&P 500 or the Dow Jones Industrial Average has fallen 20 per cent or more from a recent high for a sustained period of time. Bears hibernate, so they represent a stock market in retreat. Bull market is a term for a surging market, because bulls charge.

Dead cat bounce: When stocks rebound briefly in a moment of free fall or uncertainty, it's known as a "dead cat bounce". That's from the notion that even a dead cat will bounce when it falls from a great enough height.

Capitulation: It refers to the point when investors give up on the idea of recouping their losses and sell, often out of fear and intolerance of falling prices. This tends to happen during times of low confidence and high uncertainty and volatility.

Recession: The National Bureau of Economic Research, in charge of declaring recession defines one as "a significant decline in economic activity that is spread across the economy and lasts more than a few months."

Buy the dip: It refers to purchasing a stock or buying into the market right after it has lost value, at a discount.

10-year Treasury note: The 10-year Treasury bond yield is the interest rate the US government pays to borrow money for a decade. It's a key indicator of investor sentiment and economic conditions, and it helps set prices for all kinds of other loans and investments. Historically, Treasury bonds are considered one of the world's safest assets. In recent days, however, investors have sold Treasury bonds, which has sent the benchmark 10-year yield up. *—PTI*

Indian women's hockey team to tour Australia

NEW DELHI, 10 APRIL

The Indian women's hockey team will tour Australia for a five-match series scheduled from 26 April to 4 May, Hockey India said on Thursday. India will open the series with two matches against Australia A, followed by three games against the senior Australian team. The tour will begin with back-to-back matches against Australia A on 26 and 27 April, followed by three high-intensity games against the world No. 5-ranked Hockeyroos on 1, 3, and 4 May. All fixtures will be held at the Perth Hockey Stadium. The tour will serve as vital preparation ahead of their European leg of the FIH Pro League 2024-25, which kicks off in June. Ninth-ranked India enter the series on a high after a spirited performance against world No.1 Netherlands, securing a 2-2 draw and clinching the bonus point in a thrilling shootout in Bhubaneswar.—*PTI*

PHOTO: X/@TEJACOACH

US visa delay cost India medal at WC: Coach Teja

KOLKATA, 10 APRIL

The Indian women's compound archery side was forced to miss the season-opening World Cup Stage 1 event in the USA due to a visa delay, a setback that "cost the team a medal, believes national coach Jiwanjot Singh Teja. World No. 1 Indian women's compound team, which won all the three gold medals that were up for grabs in 2024, failed to compete as three members, world champion Aditi Swami, Madhura Dhamangaonkar and Taniparthi Chikitha were unable to travel to Aurburndale, Florida, after failing to secure their US visas on time.—*PTI*

PHOTO: X

FIA Deputy Prez quits citing 'erosion of principles'

PARIS, 10 APRIL

Turmoil at the FIA, the governing body for Formula 1 and other auto racing, has deepened after its deputy president for sport resigned in protest at how it is run. Robert Reid's resignation is the latest sign of discontent with the direction taken by the FIA under President Mohammed Ben Sulayem, whose tenure has seen numerous senior officials leave or be replaced. Reid said that his resignation was "not about personalities; it is about principles."
—*PTI*

Billie Jean Cup Finals moves to September in China

LONDON, 10 APRIL

The finals of the Billie Jean King Cup were brought forward two months on Thursday to Sept.The new 16-21 Sept. schedule in Shenzhen, China, better aligns with the calendar for top women's tennis players, organizers said. Shenzhen hosts the finals each year through 2027.After the U.S. Open ends on 7 Sept. the WTA tour moves to Asia for the China Open from 24 Sept. in Beijing.The tour then stays in China for the Wuhan Open.Italy won a 12-nation tournament last November in Malaga, Spain.—*PTI*

Time running out as strugglers CSK, KKR face off

CSK are now hoping for a change in fortune at Chepauk

CHENNAI, 10 APRIL

A beleaguered Chennai Super Kings will have their task cut out against Kolkata Knight Riders as they look to break a frustrating run of defeats in front of their loyal but success-deprived supporters in the ongoing Indian Premier League here on Friday.

Heading into the critical game, in which a loss could spell more trouble for CSK, the home team is taking some solace from the batters' impressive show in the last match against Punjab Kings. They lost by 18 runs after being set a stiff target of 219 in Mullanpur.

CSK are now hoping for a change in fortune at Chepauk, which has so far this season not afforded them the advantage it has been known to give in the past, something that has also forced longtime coach Stephen Fleming to express his frustration after a massive loss against Royal Challengers Bengaluru some days back.

CSK did not enjoy the home advantage at Chepauk, which has been a significant factor in their previous success. The pitch has changed significantly, making it harder for them to read and adapt.

For CSK to change the tide, they have no option but to try and get acclimatised to the conditions here, and their spinners will have to find ways to succeed at a venue in which they have dominated for a prolonged period.

CSK will have to focus again on veteran Mahendra Singh Dhoni, who smashed a 12-ball 27 against PBKS with three sixes and a four.

The likes of Devon Conway, Rachin Ravindra, and Shivam Dube will be entering the match on the back of some welcome runs, and that is one positive for CSK in these difficult times.After his failure against PBKS, skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad will, however, look to fire on Friday while hoping for useful contributions from his colleagues in the top.—*PTI*

Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) Captain Ajinkya Rahane; Chennai Super Kings' Ruturaj Gaikwad5 PHOTO: PTI

Dhoni to captain CSK as Gaikwad suffers injury

Chennai Super Kings were dealt a severe blow on Thursday as regular skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad was ruled out of the IPL due to an elbow injury, a development that has brought back Mahendra Singh Dhoni in the leadership role. CSK head coach Stephen Fleming confirmed the development. Ruturaj Gaikwad ruled out of IPL with a fracture in the elbow. MS Dhoni to take over as captain," Fleming told mediapersons on Thursday. Gaikwad sustained the blow when he was hit by a short ball from Jofra Archer.

KKR VS CSK

HEAD TO HEAD	
PLAYED:	29
CSK Won:	19
KKR Won:	10

KKR vs CSK Match starts at **7.30 pm IST**

> **Bowlers executed their plans to perfection while defending 217 on a placid wicket**
>
>
>
> -Parthiv Patel, Gujrat Titans assistant coach

> **The manner of the dismissal could have dented Delhi's Priyansh's confidence if it wasn't for those frank conversations with Iyer**
>
>
>
> -Ricky Ponting, head coach of PBKS

Cricket to feature six teams in 2028 LA Olympics

NEW DELHI, 10 APRIL

Cricket will witness six teams battling for top honours when the sport returns to the Olympics at the 2028 Los Angeles Games after a gap of 128 years.

This was confirmed by the organisers on Wednesday.

Cricket last featured at the Olympics in the 1900 edition of the Games in Paris, where a one-off, two-day match between Great Britain and France was held, which is now recognised as an unofficial Test.

At LA 2028, cricket will be played in the T20 format, with six teams competing in both the men's and women's competitions.

Every team will be able to name a 15-member squad, as a total of 90 athlete quotas have been allocated for each gender.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) consists of 12 full members in Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, England, India, Ireland, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka, the West Indies, and Zimbabwe.

Another 94 countries form the associate members group. Qualification criteria for the 2028 Games are yet to be confirmed for the cricket tournament, but the USA is likely to earn a direct spot at the quadrennial extravaganza as host nation, meaning only five teams will be allowed to cut through the qualification process.

Cricket is one of five new sports that will feature at the next Olympic Games. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) approved cricket's inclusion for LA28 in 2023, along with baseball/softball, flag football, lacrosse (sixes), and squash.
—*PTI*

MONTE CARLO MASTERS

Carlos Alcaraz powers past Daniel Altmaier, books QF spot

NEW DELHI, 30 OCT

Carlos Alcaraz picked up pace in his quest for a maiden Rolex Monte-Carlo Masters crown on Thursday.

The 21-year-old countered a below-par serving performance with some trademark clay-court genius to move past German qualifier Daniel Altmaier 6-3, 6-1 at the ATP Masters 1000 event.

Alcaraz was forced to face 10 break points, according to Infosys ATP Stats, but a dazzling 'tweener lob in the second game was symbolic of his high-quality showing."Honestly, it was difficult. Danny is playing great," said Alcaraz. "He's a solid clay-court player with a difficult game: a lot of topspin shots and [he's] really good physically.

The score doesn't show how difficult it was... I had to battle in the first set."It was good to get a break before the new balls, which helped with the serve. In the second set, I could be myself more, play more aggressively than in the first, and I took my chances."

Draper knocked out by Davidovich Fokina

British fifth seed Jack Draper was knocked out of the Monte Carlo Masters in the last 16 by Spain's Alejandro Davidovich Fokina on Thursday.

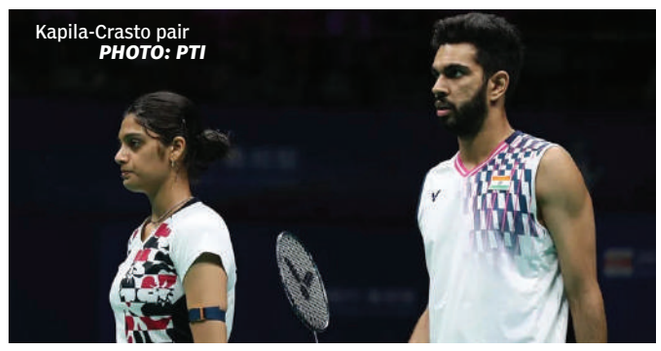
Draper, who won the Indian Wells title last month, slipped to a 6-3, 6-7 (6/8), 6-4 loss as he failed to reach a first Masters quarterfinal on clay.

The world number 42 is into the last eight in Monaco for the third time, with his best performance a run to the 2022 final, which included a shock victory over Novak Djokovic.

Davidovich Fokina edged a hard-fought opening set, which featured three breaks of serve. Draper saw three break points slip away in the ninth game, with Davidovich Fokina taking his second set point.

The players traded breaks in the second set before Draper saved a match point en route to levelling the contest in a tie-break. —*PTI*

BADMINTON ASIA CHAMPIONSHIPS



Kapila-Crasto pair PHOTO: PTI

Sindhu, Rajawat lose; Kapila-Crasto pair enters QFs

NINGBO, 10 APRIL

Double Olympic medallist PV Sindhu and the promising Priyanshu Rajawat crashed out in the pre-quarterfinals of their respective events at the Badminton Asia Championships here on Thursday.

The 29-year-old Sindhu, ranked 17th in the world, fought hard before going down 12-21 21-16 16-21 to world number four and third seed Akane Yamaguchi of Japan in women's singles contest that lasted one hour and six minutes.

Rajawat lost in straight games 14-21, 17-21 against world number seven and fifth seed Kodai Naraoka of Japan in the men's singles competition.

It was curtains for Kiran George as well in the men's singles event, as he lost 21-19, 13-21, 16-21 against world number five and fifth seed Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand.

India's campaign has ended in the men's and women's singles events.

However, the mixed doubles pair of Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto entered the quarterfinals, beating Ye Hong Wei and Nicole Gonzales Chan of Chinese Taipei 12-21, 21-16, 21-18.Kapila and Crasto will next face the fifth seeds, Chun Man Tang and Ying Suet Tse of Hong Kong. But the other Indian mixed doubles pair of Ashith Surya and Amrutha Pramuthesh exited after losing 11-21 14-21 against top seed Jiang Zhen Bang and Wei Ya Xin of China.

Later in the day, Hariharan Amsakarunan and Ruban Kumar Rethinasabapathi will take on sixth seeded Malaysian duo of Aaron Chia and Wooi Yik Soh in the men's doubles competition. —*PTI*

FORMER INDIA BASKETBALL CAPTAIN HARI KAPRI DIES

NEW DELHI, 10 APRIL

Ace basketball player and former captain of the Indian team, Hari Dutt Kapri, has passed away at his residence here. He was 83 and breathed his last on Wednesday. Kapri is survived by his wife and two sons.

His mortal remains were consigned to flames at Rameshwar Ghat on Thursday.

He was conferred with the Arjuna award in 1969. Kapri was born in Chiiriyakhan village of Muwani area of Pithoragarh district in the year 1942.

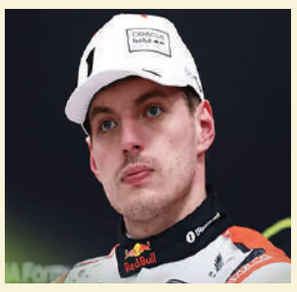
It was under his stewardship that the Indian basketball team rose from the 7th to the 4th position in Asia in the year 1969. The Indian Basketball team recorded a series of consecutive victories under his captaincy from 1965 to 1978. He was also honoured with a lifetime achievement award by the Uttarakhand government. "He was an extraordinary player of basketball player. He made the Indian team proud by taking it to the 4th position due to his commitment to the game," Pithoragarh District Magistrate Vinod Goswami said. —*PTI*

Verstappen out to silence McLaren in battle of Bahrain

BAHRAIN, 10 APRIL

McLaren's Lando Norris holds a wafer-thin advantage over four-time world champion Max Verstappen going into this weekend's Bahrain Grand Prix. Let's take a look at five storylines ahead of the fourth race of 24 in the 2025 Formula One season:

Max Verstappen arrives in Bahrain fresh from one of the best weekends of his life, on the track at least, in Japan. After a sublime pole last Saturday in Suzuka, he held the McLarens at bay with a controlled drive to haul a Red Bull car that has yet to reach its full potential over the line to move one point behind Lando Norris in the world championship. He has won on the last two trips to Sakhir, with Red Bull posting a 1-2 in both races. **Carlos Sainz**, Jr. broke Formula 1's rules on swearing on Thursday when he protested a fine for being late for a national anthem.The Williams driver was fined 20,000 euros ($22,200), with half of that suspended, after arriving late during the Japanese national anthem —*PTI*



Messi, Inter Miami win CC series against LAFC

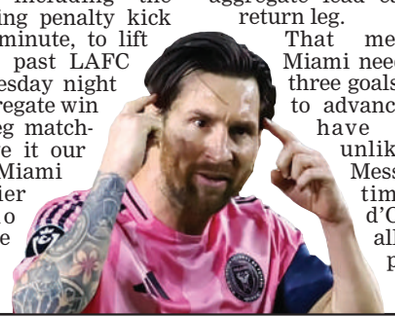
DUBAI, 10 APRIL

Inter Miami is headed to the CONCACAF Champions Cup semifinals for the first time after Lionel Messi led a dramatic three-goal comeback against Los Angeles FC (LAFC).

The Argentinian star had two goals, including the series-clinching penalty kick in the 84th minute, to lift Inter Miami past LAFC 3-1 on Wednesday night and a 3-2 aggregate win in the two-leg matchup. "We gave it our all," Inter Miami coach Javier Mascherano said. "We wanted it, we wanted to be in the semis, and I think it showed. ... Many times, luck has to be on your side, and we had it."

Inter Miami had already lost the series opener at LAFC 1-0 last week, so Aaron Long's away goal in the ninth minute on Wednesday stunned Inter Miami and handed LAFC a 2-0 aggregate lead early in the return leg.

That meant Inter Miami needed at least three goals from there to advance. It might have seemed unlikely. With Messi, an eight-time Ballon d'Or winner, all things are possible.
—*PTI*



CHAMPIONS LEAGUE QUARTERFINALS

Lewandowski lead Barcelona to 4-0 win

BARCELONA, 10 APRIL

Raphinha and Robert Lewandowski struck again to lead Barcelona to a commanding 4-0 win over Borussia Dortmund in the first leg of the Champions League quarterfinals.

Lewandowski scored twice and Raphinha had a goal and an assist, leaving the Catalan club in a strong position to reach the semifinals for the first time since 2019.

Lamine Yamal also scored as Barcelona dealt a commanding blow to the German side's hopes of advancing.

The return match is next Tuesday at Dortmund, which was last year's runner-up in a final against Barcelona rival Real Madrid. "We played very well, but we can't be thinking about the semifinals yet," ewandowski said.

"We scored four goals at home, but we still have the return leg to play."

Raphinha added to his Champions League-leading tally by poking the ball into the open net in the 25th minute for his 12th goal in the competition this season. He then helped set up Lewandowski's first goal of the night in the 48th. Lewandowski scored his 11th Champions League goal with a one-timer in the 66th before Yamal closed the scoring in the 77th. The 36-year-old Lewandowski has scored 14 Champions League goals after the age of 35, two more than Cristiano Ronaldo. Lewandowski had scored 17 of his 105 career goals in the Champions League for Dortmund over three seasons from 2011-14.
—*PTI*

PSG comeback to hurt Aston

A wonder goal from Khvicha Kvaratskhelia upstaged a brilliant curling shot from teammate Désiré Doue as Paris Saint-Germain beat Aston Villa 3-1 in the first leg of the Champions League quarterfinals on Wednesday. After Morgan Rogers gave Villa the lead in the 35th minute, the 19-year-old Doué drew PSG level four minutes later with the 12th goal of his breakthrough season.